

NORWICH and POMPEY

19th
November,
1988

45p

TEAM GROUPS

SKOOL

SCOOP
OF THE
YEAR

ROBSON

*Reveals his
secret diary*

FA CUP

LIFESTYLE
AND PREVIEW

WIN

a great prize in
our books
bonanza

E.I.R. 0.69 (inc VAT);
Australia - \$1.25;
New Zealand - \$1.85
(inc. G.S.T.);
Malaysia (by air) - \$2.70;
Italy - L3,000;
Denmark - Kr.12.00.





The secret
diary of

BOBBY ROBSON

Another
SHOOT!
exclusive

'I've had some scary moments, but I've never missed a plane, train or match'

Think

you could be the England manager?



BOBBY ROBSON holds out his diary and shakes his head. "Here, you take a look. You show me when I'm next at home."

In fact the diary shows that so far this month he's been at home for two nights, a few hours snatched in Ipswich between trips to Albania and Milan, Saudi Arabia and Glasgow.

His desk is covered by a mountain of letters; some critical, the vast majority assuring him that he still has the support of the general public. All but the most scathingly abusive will receive a courteous acknowledgement . . . as soon as he finds the time.

And as England jet back from their friendly international in Riyadh, Robson is already planning for this weekend's trip to Yorkshire, where he will make a speech at the centenary dinner

of Pickering Town and take in the Sheffield Wednesday v Spurs match. In the late hours of Sunday, hopefully, he will finally make it back to Ipswich.

Robson admits: "The demands have got worse since I took this job on six and a half years ago. I think even Ron (Greenwood) would be surprised at just how much worse.

"Everyone who has a problem in football writes to me. From the 11-year-old schoolboy who wants to play for England through to the 70-year-old who doesn't like my selections.

"I get inundated with mail. The only time it simmers down is when we win. Then I get about four letters. When we lose, I get about 600. So the only answer is to make sure we win."

Critics

But as he has learned from bitter experience, that is easier said than done. Three defeats in the European Championship and a goalless draw in the first game of the World Cup qualifying campaign have given Robson's critics a field day.

The tabloid Press have declared war on the 55-year-old former England wing-half. He knows they won't be happy until they have his head.

"We are all human, and some of the things they have written have been hurtful. It has not been very nice for my family. But that is part of my job and I am paid to take criticism."

"I realise there is a tabloid circulation war going on and these people must be good at their jobs because they are

selling millions of copies a day. But I don't have to get involved in that and I don't tar all the Press with the same brush. A lot of reporters are intelligent, constructive and responsible. Those that aren't, I just ignore. Our paths cross at various times, but I won't change them and they won't change me."

Robson's resolve not to bow to the pressure is obvious. The words "tenacity", "determination" and "resilience" crop up throughout his conversation and he says: "The thing to do is to have a strong opinion, have the tenacity to plough on and stand firm by your principles."

"If I had been weak willed or weak minded I would have been out of the job the moment we failed to qualify for the European Championships in 1984."

"I have to do my own thing. I cannot get involved in team selection with the general public. If I allowed myself to be swayed by criticism, I'd be up the creek."

But anyone who believes the England manager's job simply involves selecting 11 players every couple of months had better not tell that to Robson.

Earlier this month he spent five days in Albania as part of the preparations for the World Cup qualifier there next March. The strictest communist country in the world, Albania has never heard of glasnost. Robson and his administrative secretary Alan O'Dell first had to get a special visa from Paris. And because there are no direct flights into the country, they had to travel via Switzerland. The main purpose of the visit was to watch

CONTINUED OVERLEAF ▶

The secret diary of BOBBY ROBSON

CONTINUED

Sweden's 2-1 win on the Saturday, but the earliest return flight was the following Monday. Five days for one match. And Albania is not the fun capital of the world.

"It's going to be a difficult trip and we have to make sure everything is right. So while I was out there I was looking for hotels and training facilities, checking on the food and the bedrooms. That's all part of my responsibilities. I suppose I could delegate, but no one can do a better job than yourself."

And as if that isn't enough, Robson is also the national coach, taking charge of the Football Association's training and educational programmes.

"That is a big job on its own. I'm fortunate to have Charles Hughes as my assistant director. He's a great stalwart, a very able man who takes a lot off my shoulders, which I need."

Value

As well as Hughes, Robson also has seven regional coaches working for him throughout the country. None of the seven – Robin Russell, Colin Murphy, Kevin Verity, Jack Detchon, Mick Wadsworth, Alf Coulton and David Burnside – are exactly household names. But Robson appreciates their value.

"They're good lads. They do an excellent job. Their job is to serve football in its best interests through schemes, schools and courses. They are my lieutenants out in the field."

And as well as managing and coaching, Robson also has to deal with the hundreds of invitations associated with such a prestigious position.

"They come in thick, fast and heavy. My secretary, Michelle, is a super girl. Very bright, very efficient. She deals with as much as she can, but she needs me to



Bobby Robson at the FA headquarters at Lancaster Gate. "I need to be here. This is my base."

'It's not an easy job but when it goes right it's Utopia'

be around to give a definite yes or no. The longer I'm away, the more the backlog piles up."

An hour before our interview, he had posed for a special photograph for an exhibition, the proceeds of which would go to the Great Ormond Street Hospital's Wishing Well appeal.

As we talked, he was considering a request from the BBC to appear on a programme with the manager of the Great Britain hockey team.

"I can't help everybody, but every case is commendable and as manager of the England team you mustn't be regarded as being too remote."

"That's why I'm going to speak at the Pickering centenary dinner on Saturday night. I haven't just got to deal with the Arsenal, Tottenham and Liverpools of this world. I have to show an interest in grass roots football."

Living in Ipswich doesn't help Robson cut down on his travelling time and he admits: "Sometimes I think I should move to Northampton, because that is right in the middle of the country and perfect for getting to all four corners of England."

"But I need to be near to London because my headquarters are in Lancaster Gate. I commute in every day, but I'm prepared to do that because Ipswich is my home and it is tranquil, which is essential."

Part of his daily journey involves travelling on the crowded Underground Central Line from Liverpool Street to Lancaster Gate, and it is then that he gets the feedback from the punters.

'Nice'

"Obviously people recognise me, and I find them very nice. The ordinary guy is appalled by this latest wave of hysterical criticism. They come up to me and shake my hand. They say to me 'Hey, don't let them get you down.' And that stimulates me and helps me get on with the job."

"Some members of the Press haven't done themselves any favours because they are not reflecting the true feelings of the decent, genuine supporters. But I don't want to get drawn into an argument with the media. Let them write what they like."

But he does worry that the pressure will affect his players and says: "It would help my lads if they had good working conditions. Instead they have constant pressure to get a result for the Boss, for themselves and for their critics. It makes them very determined, but not in the way I'd like."

And in spite of the recent run of disappointing results, England's manager has not lost faith in his team. "I've watched the video of our match against the Republic of Ireland countless times, and do you know we had 19 strikes on goal. Nineteen! If even a third of them had gone in, it would have been a brilliant performance."

"We played the Dutch at Wembley in a friendly and drew 2-2. My lads were convinced they could beat them. In the European Championships we should have been two up by half-time. With 14 minutes to go it was still 1-1."

"After Holland won the Championships our critics said we had been outclassed and outmanoeuvred. Yet if they hadn't have scored an offside goal against the Irish, they'd

have gone no further than us. "That is the difference between success and failure. It is such a narrow margin and it drives you mad because there is nothing you can do about it. Yet it can make or break you."

And in spite of last month's goalless draw against Sweden, Robson remains confident of qualification for the 1990 World Cup Finals. "We still have a very good team and very good players. Sure we're in a tricky group, but who isn't? We can come out on top."

Experiment

This week's friendly in Saudi Arabia gave Robson the chance to experiment with a number of new faces, but even in such low key matches the pressure remains for England to win.

"No top grade boss would have gone to the extremes I went to against Denmark in September. I made seven changes to the team and we won 1-0. Yet we still didn't get any credit."

"The single most important thing in this job is to get results. But it is important to get victory and defeat into perspective. I have a cutting from a newspaper after England had drawn with Poland in 1973 and failed to qualify for the World Cup. The headline said 'End of the World', but it wasn't. We're all still here and we're still playing football."

Robson was recently linked

with vacant managerial jobs at both Leeds and Newcastle but he says: "I had 14 years in charge at Ipswich and now I've got club management out of my system."

Since succeeding Ron Greenwood as England manager in 1982, Robson has led teams to all five continents of the globe.

He has lost count of the number of countries he has visited.

But he still gets a kick out of travelling and says: "It's great experience. You must grow up and learn to stand on your own two feet."

"Obviously you're looked after, but not for 24 hours a day. You're in a foreign country, you can't speak the language and in a lot of these places there are restrictions on just where you are allowed to travel. I've had some hairy moments, I can tell you. But I've never missed a plane, train or match."

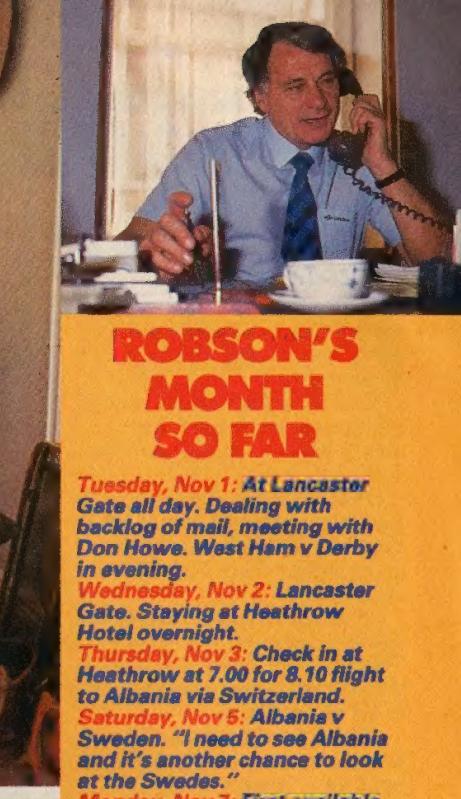
Robson knows that now his critics have decided it is time for a change of England manager, the criticism and abuse will not get any easier. But he is determined to see his contract with the FA through to 1990.

"If I didn't still enjoy it, I wouldn't go on. There'd be no point."

"It's not an easy job, but when it all goes right it's utopia. I remember the day we beat Poland 3-0 in Mexico. And what about last year's 4-1 win in Belgrade? Hey, when that happens there's no better feeling in the world."



Robson is not just England manager. He's also the national coach.



ROBSON'S MONTH SO FAR

Tuesday, Nov 1: At Lancaster Gate all day. Dealing with backlog of mail, meeting with Don Howe. West Ham v Derby in evening.

Wednesday, Nov 2: Lancaster Gate. Staying at Heathrow Hotel overnight.

Thursday, Nov 3: Check in at Heathrow at 7.00 for 8.10 flight to Albania via Switzerland.

Saturday, Nov 5: Albania v Sweden. "I need to see Albania and it's another chance to look at the Swedes."

Monday, Nov 7: First available flight out of Albania. Back to London, overnight stay in hotel.

Tuesday, Nov 8: Announcement of squad for the Saudi Arabia game. Home tonight (hooray!).

Wednesday, Nov 9: Flight from Heathrow to Glasgow to watch the Rangers v Cologne UEFA Cup-tie. "I want to check on my Rangers lads, who aren't available for the Saudi game. And I want to see some German football."

Thursday, Nov 10: Flight back to London. Working in office at Lancaster Gate.

Friday, Nov 11: Flight to Milan.

Saturday, Nov 12: Italy v Poland. "I haven't seen much of the Poles and this is my last chance before their winter break." Flight back to London straight after the match. Overnight stay.

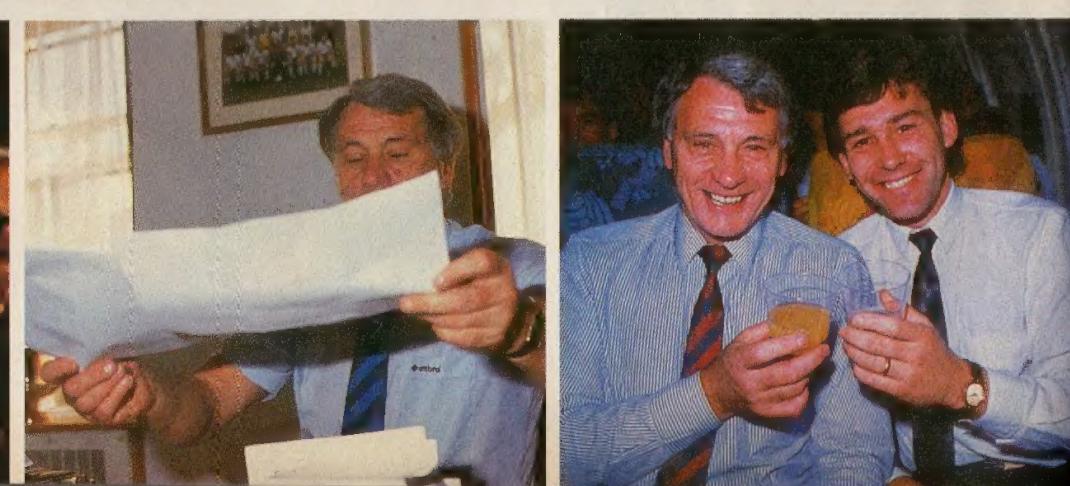
Sunday, Nov 13: Flight to Saudi Arabia with England squad.

Wednesday, Nov 16: Saudi Arabia v England (Riyadh).

Thursday, Nov 17: Return flight to England. Attend the 3M celebrity dinner in London. "It's for a good cause, with all money going to Sports Aid. I try to attend every year."

Saturday, Nov 19: Guest of honour at centenary dinner of Pickering Town FC.

Sunday, Nov 20: Sheffield Wednesday v Spurs. Home to Ipswich.



The first result Tottenham's Paul Stewart will look for at 4.45 on Saturday will be that of an FA Cup First Round tie in Cheshire.

Why on earth would the £1.7 million forward be interested in a match between non-League Altrincham and Fourth Division Lincoln City?

The answer lies in the name of the GM Vauxhall Conference club's number nine - Gary Stewart.

Gary, 27, is Paul's elder brother and the pair share an FA Cup vision: Spurs v Altrincham in the Third Round.

It happened ten years ago, Altrincham holding Spurs to a 1-1 draw at White Hart Lane before going down 3-0 in a Maine Road replay.

"It would be tremendous, a dream come true," says Gary. "With Paul not doing so well at the moment I might even be able to put one over him."

"Being his elder brother I taught him everything he knows," adds Gary, "except taking

THE DRAW

Grimsby v. Wolves
Rotherham v. Barrow
Halifax v. York
Burnley v. Chester
Preston v. Tranmere
Altrincham v. Lincoln
Scarborough v. Stockport
Darlington v. Notts County
Frickley v. Northwich
Mansfield v. Sheff. Utd.
Telford v. Carlisle
Blackpool v. Scunthorpe
Doncaster v. Brandon
Hartlepool v. Wigan
Bolton v. Chesterfield
Runcorn v. Wrexham
Leek v. Bury
Southport v. Port Vale
Stafford Rangers v. Crewe
Huddersfield v. Rochdale
Brentford v. Halesowen
Welling v. Bromsgrove
Bath v. Grays
Bristol R. v. Fisher
Bognor Regis v. Exeter
Gillingham v. Peterborough
Fulham v. Colchester
Dagenham v. Sutton
Torquay v. Fareham
Woking v. Cambridge
Kettering v. Dartford
Newport v. Maidstone
Swansea v. Northampton
Reading v. Hendon
Cardiff v. Hereford
Yeovil v. Merthyr Tydfil
Enfield v. L. Orient
Bristol C. v. Southend
Waterloo v. Aylesbury
Aldershot v. Hayes



Looking for their share of the limelight on Saturday - Andy Reid, Gary Stewart and John McMahon.



BROS

get their chance to be famous

player, because he is good enough."

At present, however, there is only one League player in the family and Gary says of Paul: "He is a winner - aggressive but not dirty. He will go for 90 minutes and run through a brick wall for whichever team he is in."

"But he is still not worth £1.7 million - no one is. He has not even played for England and it is just as daft to pay more for Paul Gascoigne, who had never played for England and Tony Cottee, who had never started a match for his country, when they were signed."

In the final qualifying round Altrincham, and Gary, defeated a Macclesfield Town side containing one Mike Lake.

Mike still lives at home with brothers Paul (of Manchester City and England Under-21) and Dave (who plays for non-League Curzon Ashton).

Mike, now 21, was also at Maine Road as a youngster but did not go further than the reserves. A trainee train driver, he often has to rush back from an away GM Vauxhall Conference fixture at places like Weymouth or Welling to start a late shift on the railroad.

"I wish I was in Paul's shoes," admits Gary, who was once on Wimbledon's books. Paul says: "Gary has two very good feet and is quick and skilful. He has been unlucky over the years not to become an established League

too, where Steve McMahon of Liverpool, who are playing QPR, will be trying anxiously to find out the Runcorn v Wrexham score.

Steve's brother John plays for the Conference club and the England international says: "It would be nice to meet on the pitch. He plays in my position and I think it would be quite competitive."

That's confirmed by John, a sports centre manager, who says:

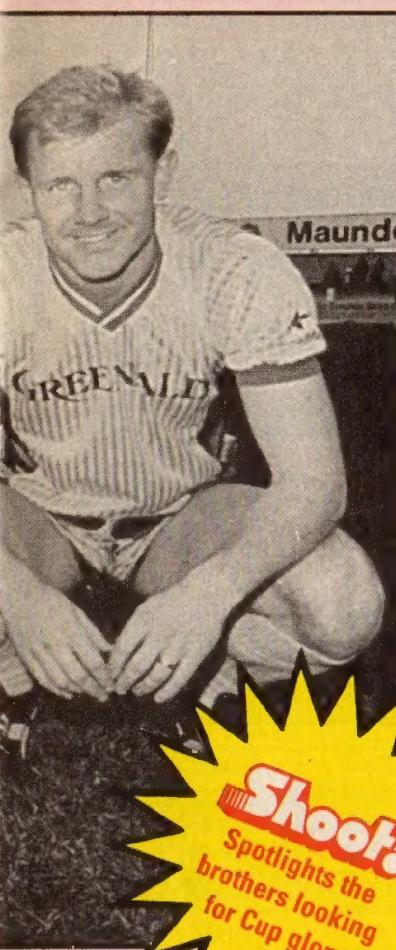
"There would be no love lost on the pitch. We are good friends off it, although there is now a big difference between our football status. Steve has worked hard for

what he has achieved."

Mum Irene and Dad Tommy, a former Liverpool schoolboys footballer, don't quite know who they would support. "We're very proud of them both," says Irene. "Tommy watches whichever one is at home."

Family comes first in a Merseyside derby, although all are Everton supporters and there are plenty of Blues connections in the McMahon family.

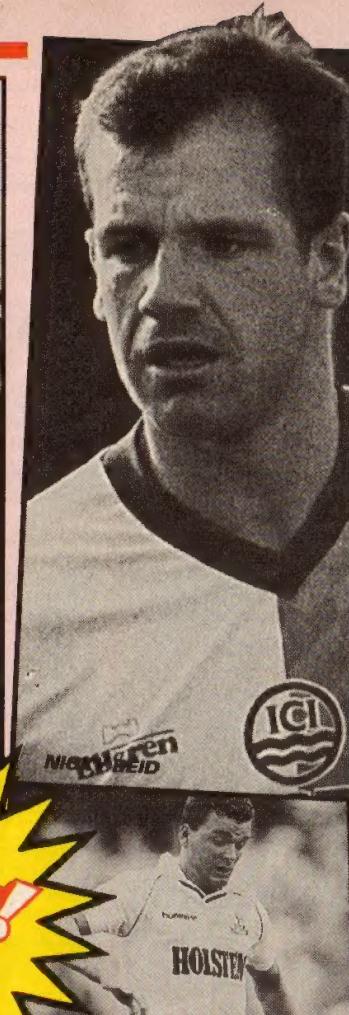
Both Steve and John started as ball-boys at Everton, progressing through the teams until Steve moved to Aston Villa and John, who did not make the first team,



NICKY REID

MCMAHON

ICL



PAUL STEWART

HOISTER

WIMBLEDON

REID

MCMAHON

STEWART

MCMAHON

REID

BARCLAYS LEAGUE

Monday, November 7

DIVISION FOUR

TRANMERE	(1) 1	HEREFORD	(0) 0
Muir			3,587

Tuesday, November 8

EUROPEAN CUP Second Round, Second-leg

BREMEN	(0) 0	CELTIC	(0) 0
		(agg: 1-0)	40,000

LITTLEWOODS CUP Third Round

EVERTON	(1) 1	OLDHAM	(0) 1
Steven (pen)		Ritchie	

DIVISION TWO

IPSWICH	(1) 3	WALSALL	(0) 1
Wark (2 pens), Stockwell		Christie	

DIVISION THREE

ALDERSHOT	(1) 1	SHEFF UTD	(0) 0
Claridge			

BRISTOL C	(0) 0	WOLVES	(0) 1
Much			

BURY	(1) 2	CHESTER	(0) 1
Hoyland, Greenwood		Newhouse	

FULHAM	(1) 2	READING	(1) 1
Barnett, Sayer		Senior	

GILLINGHAM	(1) 1	BLACKPOOL	(0) 0
Burley			

HUDDERSFIELD	(0) 0	BOLTON	(0) 1
Morgan			

NORTHAMPTON	(1) 1	PORT VALE	(1) 3
Culpin		Beckford, Earle,	

PRESTON	(1) 2	WIGAN	(2) 2
Brazil (pen), Patterson		Thompson, Diamond	

SOUTHDOWN	(1) 2	BRISTOL R.	(1) 2
Crown (2)		Purnell, Mehew	

SWANSEA	(0) 3	MANSFIELD	(0) 1
Wade, Bodak, Davies		Hedges	

DIVISION FOUR

BURNLEY	(1) 1	LINCOLN	(1) 4
Comstrie (pen)		Hobson (3, 1 pen),	

DARLINGTON	(1) 1	BRADFORD	(0) 0
Worthington		Sertori	

GRIMSBY	(2) 5	CAMBRIE	(0) 1
Watson, Cockrell, Alexander, Watson, Saunders			

HALIFAX	(2) 3	COLCHESTER	(1) 2
Martin, McPhillips (2, 1 pen)		Kelly, Wilkins	

LEYTON O.	(0) 2	CARLISLE	(0) 0
Baker, Compton			

ROTHERHAM	(2) 3	SCUNTHORPE	(1) 3
Lister (og), Goodwin, Hazel		Flounders, Uster, Hookinck	

TORQUAY	(1) 1	ROCHDALE	(0) 0
Thompson			

WREXHAM	(1) 2	STOCKPORT	(0) 0
Thackeray, Bowden			

YORK	(0) 3	CREWE	(0) 0
Dunn, Johnson, Wilson			

Wednesday, November 9

CUP-WINNERS' CUP Second Round, Second-leg

AIKHUS	(2) 4	CARDIFF	(0) 0
Pingel, Beck 2, Stamper (pen)			3,700

DINAMO	(0) 1	DUNDEE UTD	(0) 1
Maiout		Beaumont	

UEFA CUP			
Second Round, Second-leg			

RANGERS	(0) 1	COLOGNE	(0) 1
Drinkell		Janssen	

AUST VIENNA	(0) 0	HEARTS	(0) 1
15,000		Galloway	

(agg: 0-1)			

LITTLEWOODS CUP Third Round

ARSENAL	(0) 0	LIVERPOOL	(0) 0
Blackburn (0-0)		54,029 (aet)	

BLACKBURN	(0) 1	TOTTENHAM	(0) 2
Butters (og)		Thomas, Stewart 12,585	

DIVISION FOUR

EXETER	(0) 1	SCARBOROUGH	(0) 0
Rowbotham		2,351	

PETERBOROUGH	(0) 0	HARTLEPOOL	(

DAVID HOWELL

He lives near Chelsea's Stamford Bridge and works at QPR's Rangers Stadium, but it is outside the Football League where David Howell has enjoyed a successful career. And on Saturday he leads out Enfield against Leyton Orient in the FA Cup in front of the BBC Match of the Day cameras.

BACKGROUND

The fifth eldest of seven children, his parents moved from Barbados to Hammersmith in 1956. David's father, who worked for the Post Office, died nine years ago. His closest brother Michael died four years later after playing in a match against his brother. David, a centre-half with Harrow Borough, was in direct opposition to Michael, the Hayes centre-forward, when Michael had to leave the field after 15 minutes for treatment to a small cut above an eye. He never returned. Recalls David: "He went back to the dressing-rooms

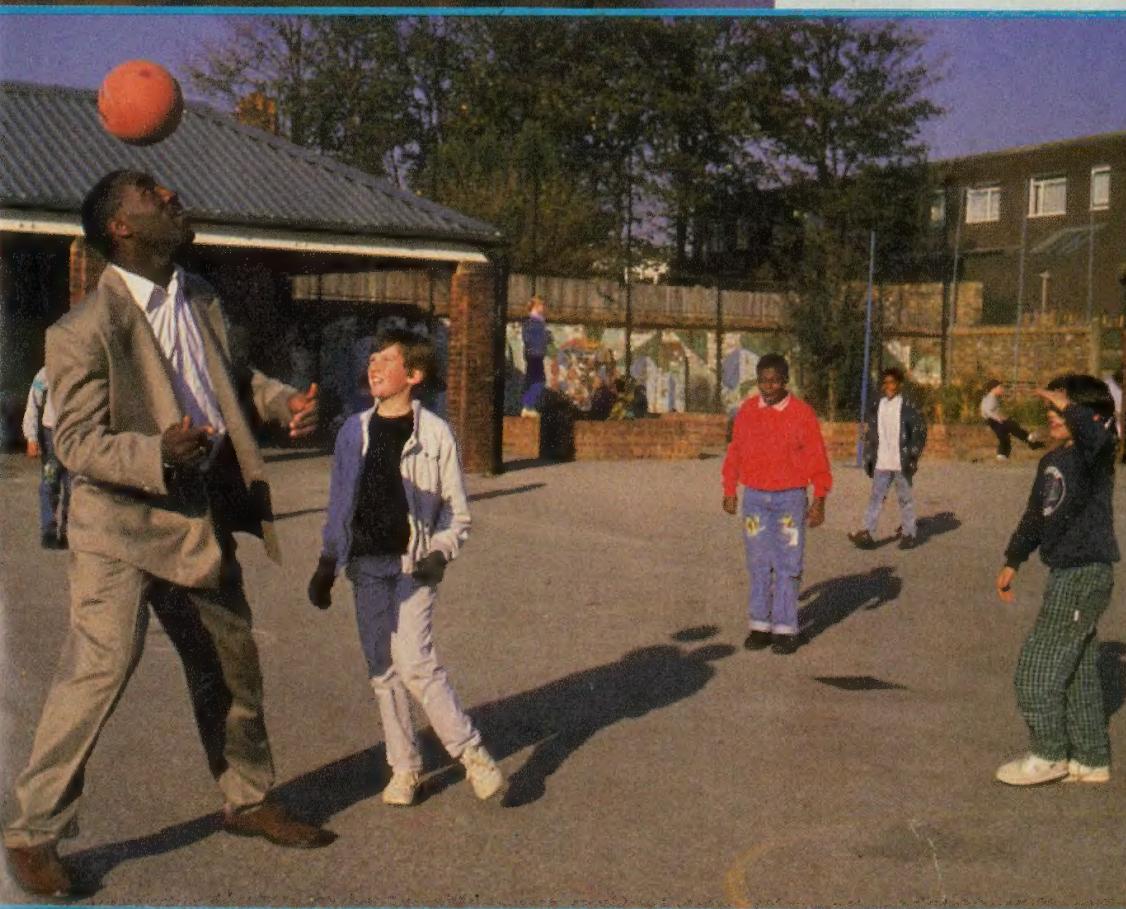
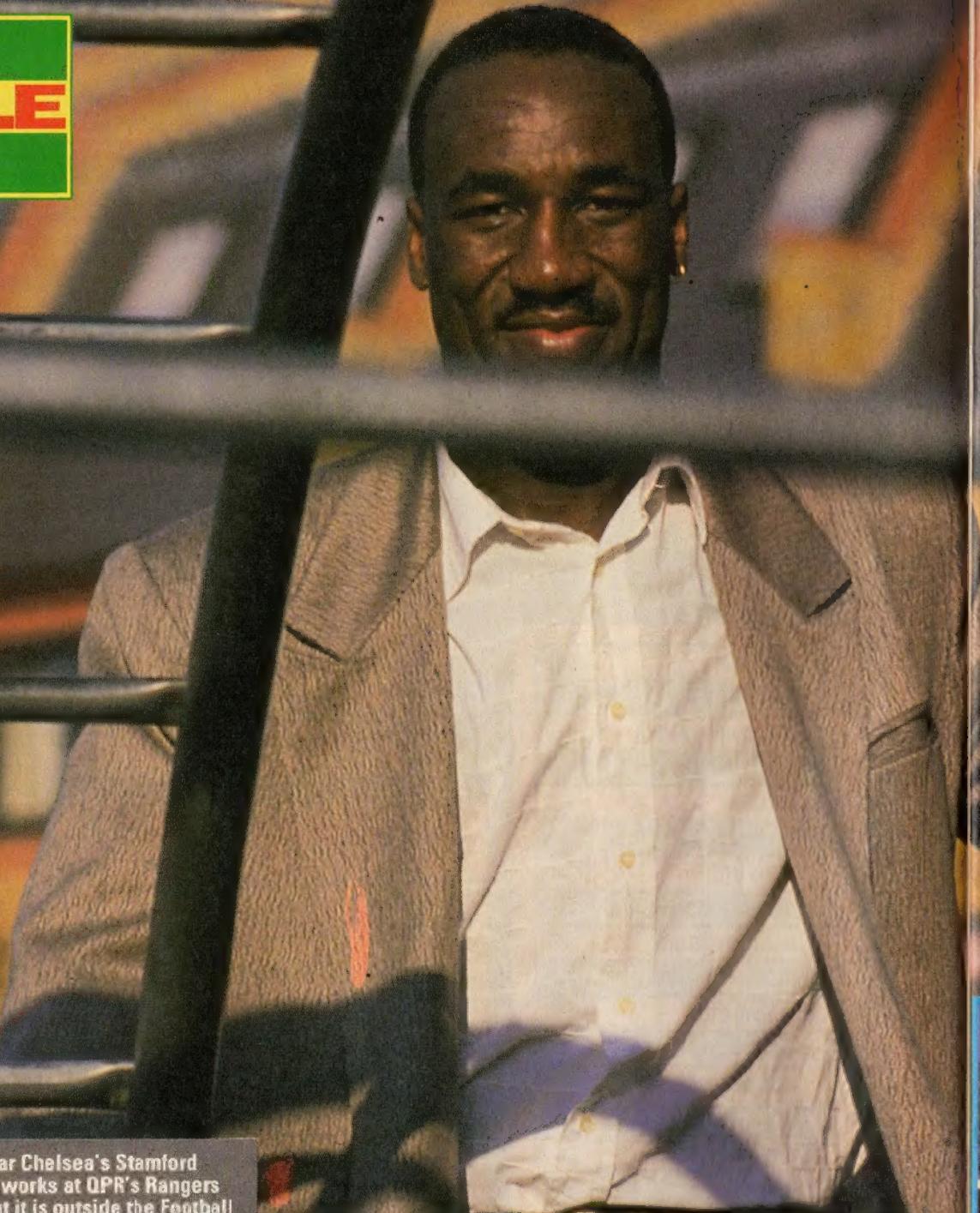
to have a plaster applied. The physiotherapist left him for a moment to gather his materials when Mike collapsed and died of a heart-attack. The coroner's report said that Mike was born with a heart condition and that he was living on borrowed time. But it was still hard to accept because he was fit and strong and at the time was about to sign for Dave Bassett at Wimbledon. I lost a brother, a friend and a companion."

Michael's name lives on at Brackenbury Primary School in Hammersmith, situated within a two minute walk from the family home. Both David and Michael attended the school and Michael later coached the school football team during his spare time. The *Michael Howell Memorial* is a gold medal awarded annually to the pupil who shows the most achievement in academic, sporting and general development. Seoul Olympic silver medallist Linford Christie is

another old boy.

David attended Holland Park secondary school and gained five 'O' levels before gaining further CEE (Certificate of Extended Education) passes in the sixth form after turning down the opportunity to join Fulham's groundstaff. "They obviously didn't have enough faith in me otherwise they would have have signed me as a full time pro. Consequently I wasn't too sure of them either."

Instead he embarked on a career in non-League football with Hillingdon Borough, Hounslow (he almost left them for Birmingham but Hounslow asked for £12,000 at a time when Cyrille Regis left Hayes for West Brom in a £3,000 deal), Harrow Borough and, presently, Enfield. David captained the club to last season's FA Trophy success and is also skipper of England's semi-professional side. He is the current holder of the non-League Footballer of the Year award.



ROMANCE

Tessa is a year younger than David, and was in Michael's class at school. "She always fancied me at school," he says.

"Rubbish," Tessa retorts. "He used to follow me home from school to find out where I lived... in his bright yellow jumper. Hardly inconspicuous."

It wasn't until David was 21 that they finally got together but the romance ended two years ago as their lives seemed to be going in different directions.

JOB

David signed the Official Secrets Act when he joined the Ministry of Defence. He was attached to the RAF and later the Scientific Recruitment sections and left just before the Falklands Conflict in 1982. After Michael's death he spent a year doing odd jobs, working on a building site, driving vans and roofing. Then he worked for various health clubs as a nautilus instructor before gaining his present job working for the BBC's Personnel Department three years ago. Their offices are situated at Queens Park Rangers' ground but will be moving shortly to new premises at Ealing.

NIGHTLIFE

The couple used to organise parties in nightclubs. David would act as DJ while Tessa designed the tickets and the promotions. "There was a time when you would always find me in a nightclub," he says. "Dave's the type who takes over the dancefloor, and at the moment he's into Acid House," says Tessa.

David blames the media for the stigma attached to Acid House, the new trend sweeping Britain's clubs. "There is no smoke without fire," he admits, "but in the overwhelming majority of cases this is about young people going to a club and dancing all night. They've not got time to pop any tablets. I've been in a club where film crews have been present offering kids £30 to say they are on drugs."

David started deejaying eight years ago at the Starlight Roller Disco in Hammersmith and still occasionally spins, scratches and mixes sounds for friends. He has built up a record collection too huge to count but conservatively, it totals 1,000 LPs and 12 inch discs.

His favourite club? "If I want to dance and have a mad night I go to Broadway Boulevard on Thursdays to the Zigzag. If I want to dress up and pose I'll go to Stringfellow's or Browns and if I want to meet a cross section of people I'll go to Limelight. But since Tessa and I have been living together I don't go clubbing as much."

The couple like eating at Italian restaurants. *Sale E Pepe* in Knightsbridge is a particular favourite.

They met up again earlier this year and have been sharing a flat since August.

"Tessa gets on with everyone - a natural. She is friendly and very easy to get along with," says David.

"David generates enthusiasm within crowds. He is a leader as opposed to someone who sits quietly in the background. I like someone who creates atmosphere and is a step aside from everyone else. David is certainly that," adds Tessa, a graphic designer who started her own business with three other partners on October 1 of this year.



CAR

The convertibles seen in our picture are on their way out. Tessa, as befitting a company director, is awaiting delivery of a new blue BMW convertible while David is about to buy a Ford Sierra XR4i. David has only one blot on his driving record since passing his test, second time, 12 years ago. He was caught driving through a red light on the North Circular Road.

HOBBIES

Music, as you will have gathered, is a major form of relaxation... but there's more. His latest hobby is horseriding. Tessa is a keen rider and owns her own horse, Little Harvey. "I like anything sporty," he says. He has applied considerable sporting physique to cricket, athletics, tennis and squash, and also enjoys a game of snooker. His favourite musical artists by the way, include Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, Sam Cooke, Maze, Womack and Womack and The Pasadenas.

HOME

The couple are about to move out of their one bedroomed flat situated a goal kick away from Chelsea's Stamford Bridge. They share an apartment building with Luke Goss of Bros, and have been invaded by scores of Brosettes ever since the newspapers printed details of the location. "The thing is," says David, "that Luke's minder is a black guy, and whenever I walk out of the building the fans think Luke will be following. Even the residents think I'm his minder. I hear them whispering whenever I walk by."



Luke? We've said hello and our headlights have winked at each other but apart from that you wouldn't know he lived here."

The couple will miss the adjoining sports centre built exclusively for residents, which has a swimming pool, saunas, a gym and a few sunbeds among its facilities.

But they are excited about the two bedroome cottage in Chiswick which will soon be their new home. "It's got a lovely feel to it," says Tessa. "The guy who sold it to us works on the set on Minder and has installed a beautiful old fireplace. There is also a fantastic garden."

FAULTS

How's this for a novel observation? "I'm too nice," he says. "When I play football I am forceful and aggressive but off the park I am too relaxed and laid back. I don't know if it is a fault



AMBITIONS

David freely admits Tessa is the ambitious one in their partnership. "I would just like to live a happy and content life. I feel I've got a lot to offer away from football and my present job... the problem is discovering just what that is. I worked part-time at

a children's playcentre a few years ago and found I could get kids to do things that other people couldn't. My life is so busy at the moment that I haven't had time to step back and look but I realise I must do that soon. I am a fit 30 and feel I could play football until I'm 40. But you never know what's around the corner, do you?"

ENFIELD

An indifferent start to the season makes it unlikely that they will be challenging for a place in Division Four this time. But the club is geared towards success and will certainly test Orient on Saturday. "We're looking for a fair run in the FA Cup and, of course, we want to defend the FA Trophy, hopefully winning at Wembley this time instead of in a replay, as we did last year at West Brom. I feel Enfield are the Liverpool of non-League football. Opponents come to our ground with five across the back and always seem to raise their game against us. We have a chairman, a manager, an assistant manager, a first-team coach, a physio, a club doctor and a board of directors and I think that illustrates what a well run club this is. Enfield are one of about ten clubs in the Vauxhall Conference who wouldn't look out of place in the Fourth Division, even the Third."

And David Howell? "I would love to prove to people that I could – and still can – hold my own in professional football. At what level? The First Division. Hand on heart. No problem. Both hands on heart..."

WITH AN AMSTRAD CPC TV & COMPUTER SYSTEM YOU'LL WANT TO BE SENT TO YOUR ROOM MORE OFTEN.

COLOUR TV & COMPUTER MONITOR

Not only is the monitor great for playing games in glorious technicolour, when used with the Tuner you have a brilliant 14" colour TV. So after a hard day blasting aliens you can relax and watch your favourite TV programmes.



17 GAMES

You can get started right away with the 17 Games included in the package. There's all the best titles (Trivial Pursuit®, Monopoly®, Cluedo®, Scalextric® and Scrabble® to name just a few) so the fun starts as soon as you get your hands on an Amstrad CPC TV & Computer System. (Cassette boxes shown for illustration.)



CLOCK/RADIO

Set the Clock/Radio alarm to your favourite radio station and waking up in the morning won't be such a drag.

JOYSTICK

The Joystick gives you ultimate control. You can fly jets and fire missiles with amazing precision, making every flight a smooth ride.

CPC 6128 COMPUTER

A state-of-the-art disk drive computer. So if it's power you want, the CPC 6128 has the memory of a whole star system. The disk drive gets you loaded and ready to fire in seconds.

WORKDESK

The Workdesk keeps everything in one place. So you have the complete TV & computer system at your command all of the time.

Amstrad CPC TV & Computer Systems turn any bedroom into a nerve centre of pure excitement.

A colour TV, colour monitor, clock/radio, CPC computer, with disk or cassette drive, 17 games, joystick and a workdesk to keep everything tidy, all add up to the best home computer package ever offered.

If you've got an Amstrad CPCTV & Computer System in your bedroom, being sent there is never a problem.

AMSTRAD TV & COMPUTER
SYSTEMS FROM

£399.

Available at participating branches of: Alders, Clydesdale, Comet, Currys, Dixons, Hobbyline, Hughes TV & Video, Laskys, Peter B Ledbury, R.V.S. Ltd, and all good stockists.

WITH DISK DRIVE

£499.

Available at participating branches of: Alders, Clydesdale, Comet, Currys, Dixons, Hobbyline, Hughes TV & Video, Laskys, Peter B Ledbury, R.V.S. Ltd, and all good stockists.

Please send me more information on Amstrad CPC TV & Computer Systems

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

C.S.2

AMSTRAD

Amstrad plc, P.O. Box 462, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4EF. Tel: (0277) 262326

R.R.P. prices (inc VAT) correct at 19.88. Prices subject to change without prior notice. Products subject to availability. All software sold subject to licence. Amstrad is the registered Trademark and CPC 6128 the Trademark of Amstrad plc © 1988 Amstrad plc. All rights reserved.

I'll copy Kenny



BRIAN TALBOT is aiming to follow in the footsteps of the most famous names in the game following his appointment as the new player-manager at West Bromwich Albion.

The former England midfield man has been given a contract until the end of next season as well as having his player contract extended for another year.

Stuart Pearson, the former Manchester United striker, has also been appointed as the new first team coach to act as Talbot's right hand man.

Talbot, who succeeds Ron Atkinson, firmly believes that he can be as successful combining the duties of a player and a manager as Kenny Dalglish has been at Liverpool.

"If you do the job correctly you can combine the two roles of player and manager," he says.

The widely travelled 35-year-old, who has played under some

YOU'LL BE KNOCKED OUT WITH THE RESULTS WHEN YOU PLACE AN AD IN

Shoot!



FOR DETAILS PHONE
CLIVE JORDAN 01-379 3581 EXT 208

Talbot aims to be the new Dalglish

of the most respected managers in the game, is confident that he can bring all his experience to bear as he plans Albion's promotion charge.

He says: "I am looking forward to the next 20 months. It is a position for which I think that I am prepared and I cannot wait to get my teeth into the job."

"Now I have been appointed permanently, the hard work will start. But I know with the team that we have here, right down from the chairman to the woman who washes the kit, that we are on the way back up. Now it is up to me to make things work on the field."

However, Talbot's appointment will mean that the Professional Footballers' Association has now lost its chairman.

'Escape'

Albion chairman John Silk says: "When Brian joined us last season, his energy, skill and enthusiasm played a major role in helping us to escape relegation.

"This season, under Ron Atkinson, the team were beginning to buzz and this was enhanced by Brian Talbot during his spell as caretaker-manager.

"However, we did not choose him as our new manager just because the team won all four games during his spell in charge of the side."

"Good players do not necessarily make good managers, but the Board came to the conclusion that whatever he does he is not prepared to be second best and we feel that he will bring success to the club."

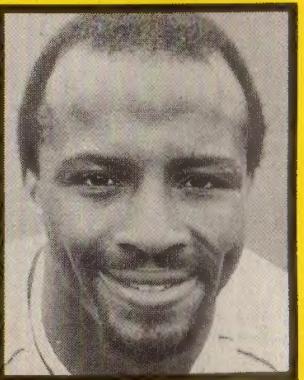
Brian Talbot is just one of a number of men to leap aboard the managerial merry-go-round in the past few weeks. Here are some of the other hot-seat appointments:-

Colin Suggett (Newcastle)
Paul Hart (Chesterfield)
Keith Burkinshaw (Gillingham)
Howard Wilkinson (Leeds)
Peter Eustace (Sheff. Wed)
John Bird (York)
Bobby Moncur (Hartlepool)

TOP TEN

Cartoon characters moonlighting in football, according to Jon Nathap of Godstone, Surrey.

- 1 ATOM ANTon Rogan (Celtic)
- 2 SECRET CYRILLE Regis (Coventry)



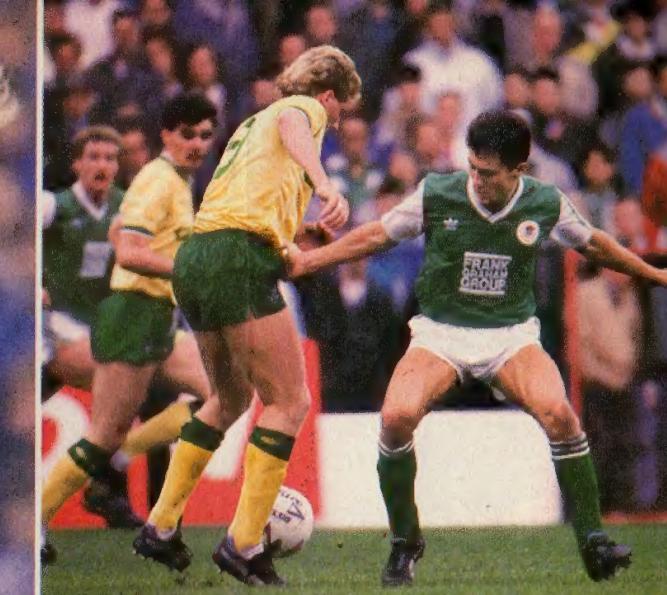
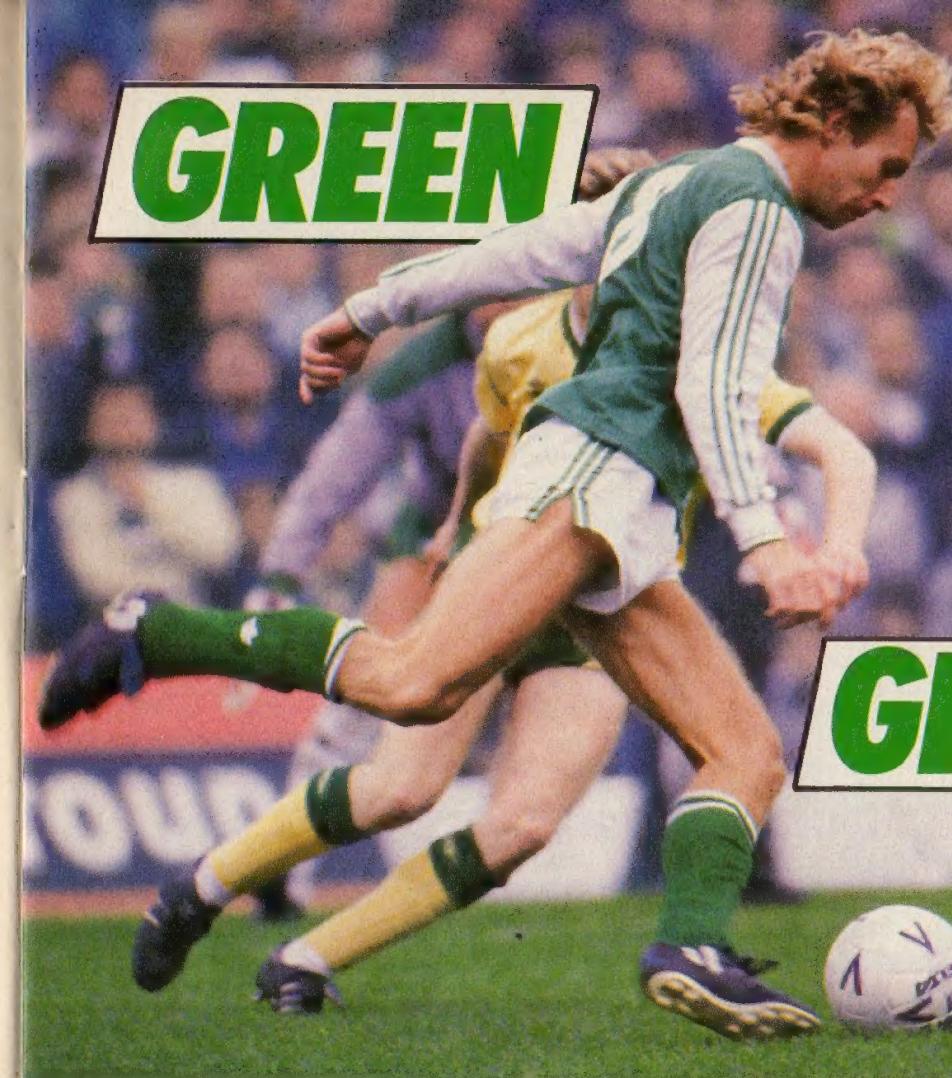
- 3 DEPUTY DOUG Rougvie (Shrewsbury)
- 4 Graham ASTERIX (Caen)
- 5 Paul MARINeR BOY (ex Ipswich and Arsenal)
- 6 Gavin MR MAGUIRE (QPR)
- 7 Jason SCOOBIE DOZell (Ipswich)
- 8 Rene DANGER HOUSEman (Argentina)
- 9 Tommy TOP CATon (Oxford)
- 10 Steve YOGIzovic BEAR (Coventry)

Football Books, and their authors, according to Jenny Mileham of Cranleigh in Surrey.

- 1 Wuthering Heights (Dave Stringer, Norwich)
- 2 Great Expectations (Michael Thomas, Arsenal)
- 3 The Wizard of Oz (Craig Johnston)
- 4 Peter Pan (Peter Shilton)
- 5 Paradise Lost (Terry Venables)
- 6 Much Ado About Nothing (Terry Venables)
- 7 Jaws (Brian Clough)
- 8 To Serve Them All My Days (Ricky Hill)
- 9 The Invisible Man (Bobby Mimms)
- 10 Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (Trevor Francis)

SHOOT T shirts are on the way. You can win one if we publish your (original - don't nick 'em from anywhere else) Top Ten lists. Send them to: Top Ten, Shoot, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. State your shirt size and colour preference (available in black or white).

GREEN



GIANTS

HIGH-FLYING HIBS have been the surprise hits of Scottish soccer this season and few have been more responsible for their dream start than midfielder John Collins (above), and Steve Archibald (left). There's a 12-year gap between the Hi-bees heroes (Collins is just 20, Archibald 32) but the two men are united in their fight for a cause which is the talk of the Premier Division. No team has been more taken aback by the Edinburgh club's sizzling form than Champions Celtic, who were on the wrong end of a 3-1 hammering. Archibald, back and buzzing in Britain after his pain in Spain, scored two goals in a memorable match last month. And young Collins, a target for a clutch of English clubs in the summer, is certainly benefiting from having old hand Archie alongside him.



Score with PUMA

FOOTBALLS

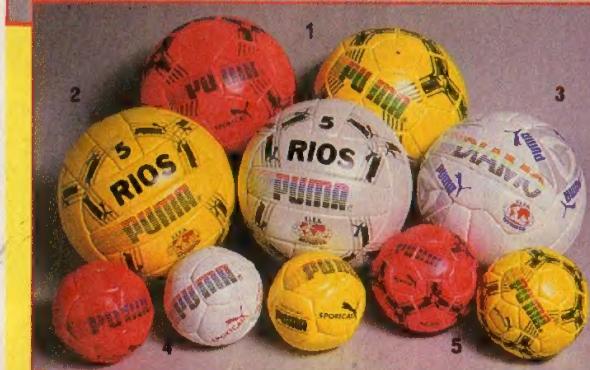
- 1 Sportcat. Material: PVC leather. Colours: Flu red, yellow, white. Fifa approved. Size 5 Price £9.99
- 2 Rios. Material: Titan Cordley. Colours: pearl white, flu yellow. Fifa approved. Size 5. Price £14.99
- 3 Diamo. Material: Barex. Colour: white. Size 5. Fifa approved. Price £10.99
- 4 Mini Sportcat 12. Material: Cordley. Colours: flu red, yellow, green, white. Price £3.99
- 5 Mini Sportcat 32. Material: PVC. Colours: flu red, yellow. Price £4.99

GLOVES

- 6 Wildcat. Material: PU leather. Flex grip smooth foam latex palm, velcro fastening. Price £20.99
- 7 Firecat. Material: PU leather. Smooth foam latex palm, elasticated wrist. Price £11.99
- 8 Mudcat. Material: PU leather. Honeycomb latex palm, velcro fastening. Price £14.99
- 9 Index Cat. Material: Cotton. Pimpled rubber palm, velcro fastening. Price £2.99

SHINGUARDS

- 10 Armalite. Colour: black/green. Fifa approved. Price £12.99
- 11 World Class XRS. Colour: white/green. Fifa approved. Price £6.99
- 12 Shoe Bags. Colours: black, grey, navy, ice blue, royal. Price £4.95



BOURNE SPORTS

CHURCH STREET STOKE-ON-TRENT ST4 1DJ Tel. 0782 410411

NAME ADDRESS

Description

Send cheque/Postal Order or phone your order quoting Access, Visa, American Express or Diners Card. Tel: 0782 410411 or 49088 or 47138. All orders value £25 and over POST FREE. Other orders plus £1.

Total Inc P&P

I'm handy, Andy

STEVE CLARKE'S message to Scotland boss Andy Roxburgh is, in the words of the song by Scots band Simple Minds: *Don't you forget about me.*

Clarke, who has won five full caps, was left out of the squad for the World Cup qualifier in Norway and was out injured for the second group match against Yugoslavia.

But now, alive and kicking again, he is determined to force his way back into the reckoning. He says: *I was disappointed when I was left out of the squad.*

"I have done fairly well in my games for Scotland so far but that counts for nothing as Andy Roxburgh picks what he considers to be the best team at the time.

"I will just keep plugging away and hope that I can do enough to warrant a call-up next time."

Playing in a successful side is a big help when it comes to pressing for international honours

and after a shaky start to the season Chelsea are looking good.

Clarke was on the injury list that threatened to destroy Chelsea's hopes of bouncing back to the big time but with himself, Kerry Dixon, Tony Dorigo and Gordon Durie back in action the club are moving menacingly towards the top of Division Two.

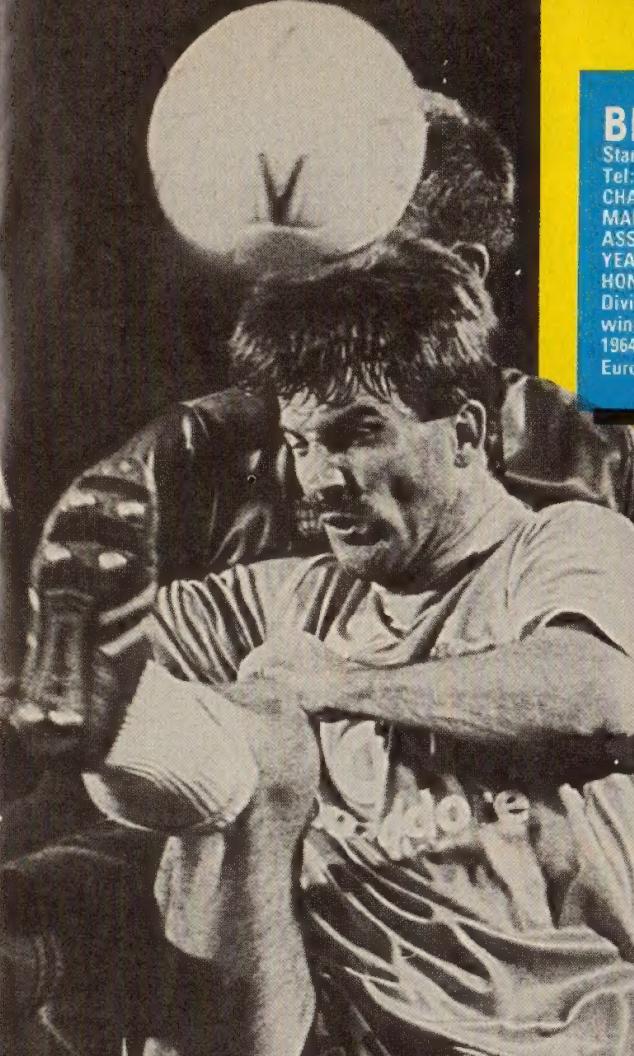
Clarke says: "At the start of the season when we were not getting the results there was a lot of hysteria in the Press.

'Worry'

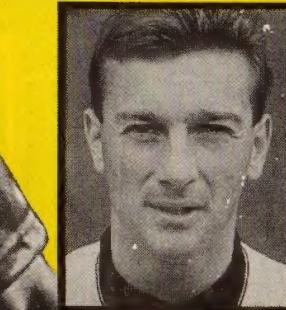
"But the players never let it worry them and we knew that we were playing well.

The Second Division is full of big clubs this season and whoever can put a good run together will be in a strong position."

And Clarke doesn't feel he is promising Chelsea fans a miracle when he says: "I'm very confident we'll make a quick return to the top flight."



BLUESFAX
Stamford Bridge, Fulham Road, London SW6.
Tel: (01) 385 5545.
CHAIRMAN: Ken Bates.
MANAGER: Bobby Campbell.
ASSISTANT MANAGER: Ian Porterfield.
YEAR FORMED: 1905.
HONOURS: Football League Champions 1954-55;
Division Two Champions 1983-84; FA Cup
winners 1970; Football League Cup winners
1964-65; Full Members Cup winners 1985-86;
European Cup-Winners' Cup winners 1970-71.



EDDIE BATTLES ON

Eddie Niedzwiecki has hung up his goalkeeping gloves and taken up residence in the manager's hot seat.

Forced to quit the game through a serious knee injury, he is now in charge of Chelsea's youth team and is finding life more hectic than it ever was behind the defences of Chelsea, Wrexham and Wales.

He says: "It is a lot different to life as a professional. There is far more work involved and I am learning my trade as much as the youngsters are learning theirs."

One thing he is finding difficult to accept is the fact that he will never play professional football again.

He says: "I still get frustrated when I see the first team out on the pitch.

'Problems'

"I can't even train with the youngsters yet. I have done a couple of times and I have problems walking properly the next day."

It is just over a year since Eddie finally had to quit after a long struggle battling for fitness after rupturing his knee ligaments.

There were several times when he thought he would win that battle so the blow, when it came, was hard to accept. But Eddie says it was softened by the reaction from fans.

"I had a lot of nice letters and I am very grateful to all the people who sent them."

He is not bitter about his injury, saying: "There is no point in feeling sorry for yourself. I am grateful for my time as a professional and am trying to pick up the pieces and build a career as a manager.

"I have got a good foothold with Chelsea and I am learning every day."

BLUE MURDER



'Someone's in for a hiding whenever Kerry, Gordon and I are on form'
SAYS KEVIN WILSON

Life at Stamford Bridge has turned upside down for Kevin Wilson during the past six months.

Chelsea's drop from the top flight was a bitter pill for Wilson to swallow, especially as he had been unable to gain a regular place in the team.

But now that the Blues are singing in harmony again, and looking a good bet to go straight back up, the Banbury-born striker could not be happier.

"The atmosphere at the club is so different it's unbelievable," says Wilson. "But it just shows you can never keep a big, glamorous club like Chelsea down for long."

"I wasn't too pleased about not getting more games last season

and, as I had just moved down from Ipswich, the team's problems hit me harder than most.

'Confidence'

"At the end of the season my confidence was low, but I knew everything would come good again."

"We've always had quality players and lots of experience,

and those two things have shone through in our performances this season."

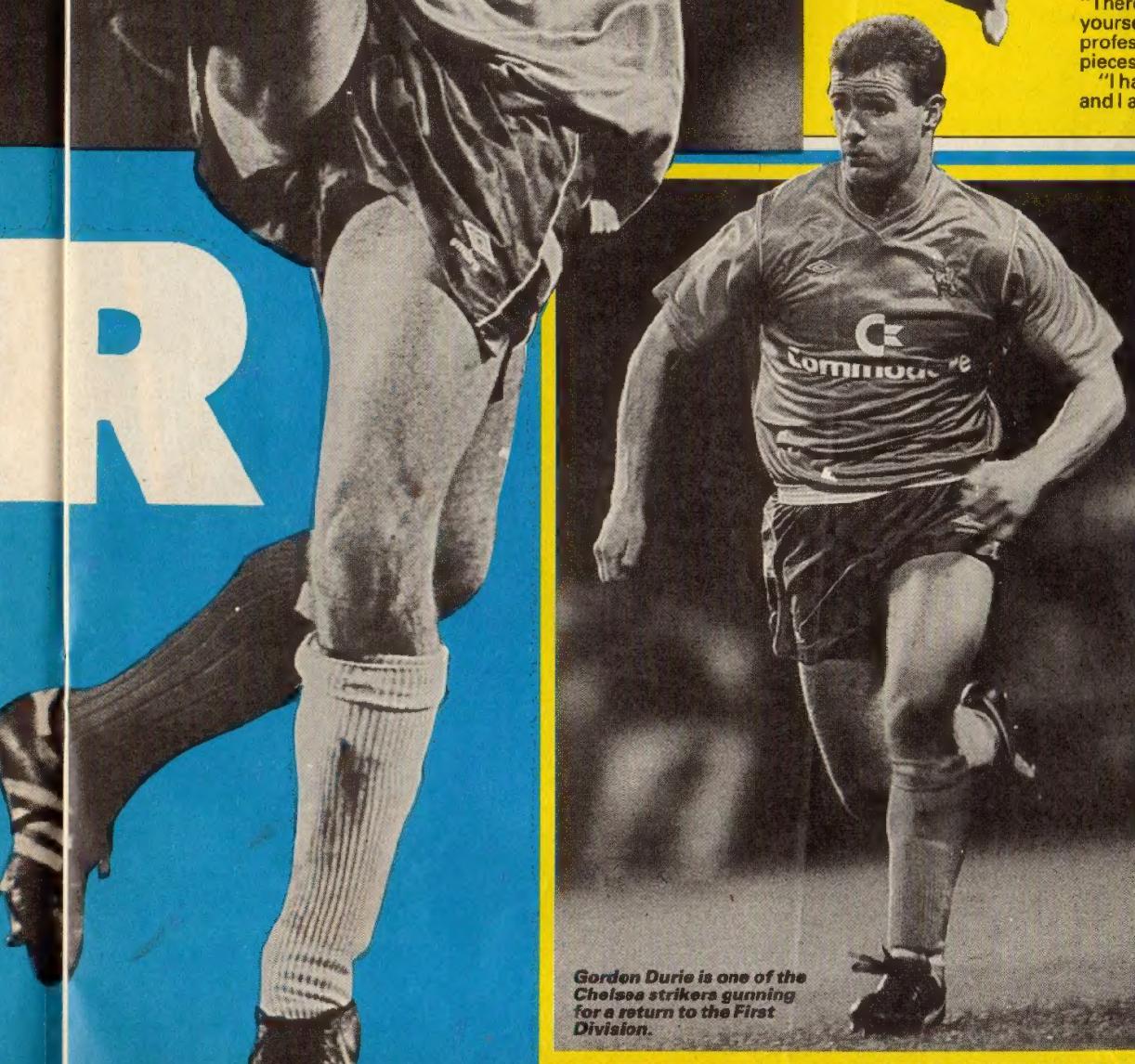
Wilson scored just five League goals in 25 appearances for Chelsea last season, but he is now back in the kind of form he showed at both Derby County and Ipswich, and which convinced John Hollins, then Blues boss, to pay £35,000 for him in June 1987.

And the 25-year-old Northern

Ireland international has set himself a target to reach by next May.

"Anything around 20 goals would make me happy. More than that would be absolutely great," says Wilson.

"I believe Kerry Dixon, Gordon Durie and myself will score plenty of goals this season. We've got to if we're going to win promotion."



Gordon Durie is one of the Chelsea strikers gunning for a return to the First Division.

Manager Bobby Campbell, who has relied on the experience of players like Graham Roberts and Peter Nicholas to breathe new life into his squad, has shown his eagerness to play attacking football by picking Wilson, Durie and Dixon in the same side.

And Wilson says: "It's worked well. We are all hungry for goals and there's a good chance that at least one of us will score during a game. If we all feel good then someone's in for a hiding."

"But it really doesn't matter which player scores the goals as long as we are in Division One next season. That's our priority."

'Hardest'

"The Second Division is by far the hardest to escape from and there are six or seven sides capable of going up."

Wilson also realises that success for Chelsea would do his international ambitions - he has already won ten caps - no harm.

He adds: "I was dropped from the squad by Billy Bingham last season and that really hurt."

"But I was included again for the Republic of Ireland match and came on as substitute against Hungary last month."

"I want to play a big part in Northern Ireland's World Cup campaign and doing well for Chelsea will help me to achieve that ambition."

QUIZ

Compiled by
Steve Pearce

1 Ian Rush scored his first goal back at Liverpool against Nottingham Forest (right). What was the score?

2 Who were the last First Division team to lose a League match this season?

MEMORY TEST 88

How much can you remember about this season so far?

3 Coventry midfielder David Speedie (left) scored a hat-trick in a League match at Highfield Road yet still finished on the losing side. Who were the opponents?

4 Did Glenn Hysen, Peter Larsson or Glenn Stromberg captain Sweden in the World Cup qualifying draw with England at Wembley?

5 Who was in goal for Celtic when they were thumped 5-1 by their great rivals Rangers at Ibrox?

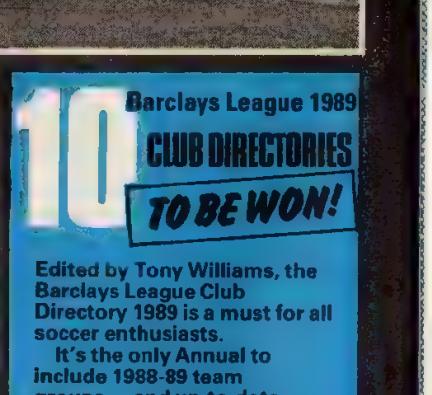
6 Two goals in the last six minutes from Andy Townsend and Micky Phelan gave Norwich a 2-1 victory over who in October?

7 Who replaced Mark Lawrenson as manager at Oxford after the former Liverpool star had been sacked?

8 Derby striker Dean Saunders scored on his League debut for the club against who in a 4-1 win?

9 Manchester United's Jesper Olsen was brought down by which Everton defender when clear through in the live televised game at Goodison Park?

**Answers
on page
39**



10 Did Dave Beasant or Andy Thorn (above) leave Wimbledon first to join up with Newcastle?

11 Davie Dodds scored both Aberdeen goals in their 3-2 Skol Cup Final defeat at Hampden Park. True or false?

12 A Ruud Gullit header or shot finally beat keeper Neville Southall in the Welsh goal as Holland won 1-0 in their World Cup qualifier?

13 Who scored Scotland's goals in their 2-1 win in Norway?

14 Who were the opponents when Nottingham Forest defender Des Walker won his first England cap at senior level?

15 Arsenal beat Manchester United 2-1 to win the Mercantile Credit Trophy. Where was the game played?

16 Who took over as manager at West Brom following the departure to Atletico Madrid of Ron Atkinson?

17 Sheffield Wednesday were knocked out of the Littlewoods Cup by which Third Division side?

18 Did Tony Gale or Alvin Martin score twice in West Ham's emphatic 5-0 win over Derby in the Littlewoods Cup Third Round?

19 Who were the two beaten Semi-Finalists in this season's Skol Cup?

20 Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland shared the points in a goalless World Cup qualifier. Name the two keepers in the match.

Barclays League 1989
CLUB DIRECTORIES
TO BE WON!

Edited by Tony Williams, the Barclays League Club Directory 1989 is a must for all soccer enthusiasts.

It's the only Annual to include 1988-89 team groups... and up-to-date information on players. Full club and ground details. First and Second Division clubs are each detailed over eight pages with the Third and Fourth Division clubs receiving six pages each.



Answer the question on a postcard, or back of a sealed envelope. Add your name and address and send to SHOOT/CLUB DIRECTORY COMPETITION, SHOOT Magazine, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. Prizes awarded to the first ten correct entries opened after Friday 2nd December.

QUESTION
Which club received £1,250,000 from Arsenal for Clive Allen in August, 1980?

*Barclays League Club Directory 1989 - £9.95 available from WH Smiths and all good booksellers.

silver spoon

AND

BOBBY CHARLTON

SOCER
COACHING
OFFER

Bobby Charlton's Soccer School with Silver Spoon invite you to a soccer coaching session to improve your soccer skills and have fun at the same time!

"I can promise you a fun half day which will improve your soccer skills whether you want to be a centre forward or a goalie!"

So no matter what your standard is - look out for the special Silver Spoon Packs and come and join in!"

a half days coaching session is on offer for:

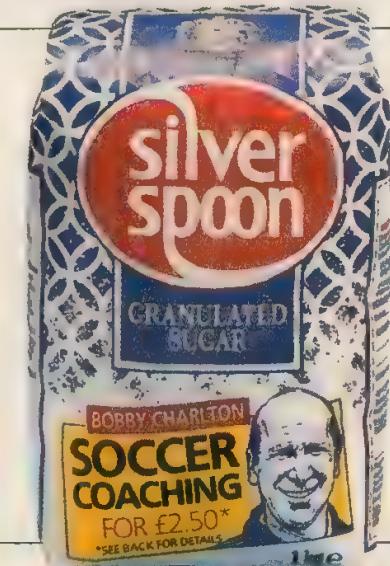
JUST

**£2.50 PLUS
10 SPECIAL SOCCER TOKENS**

OR

**£7.50 PLUS
4 SPECIAL SOCCER TOKENS**

Details and Soccer Tokens are featured on specially marked packs of Silver Spoon Granulated Sugar.



STAY ON-SIDE WITH

silver spoon

MOVE OVER REIDY

*Snodin
warns his
coach*

Versatile Everton star Ian Snodin has already sentenced England Under-21 international Neil McDonald to a spell in the Goodison reserves – and now he's gunning for Peter Reid.

Snodin, who almost quit the club in the summer, has been in outstanding form as a stop-gap defender this season and his displays at right-back have led to McDonald demanding a transfer.

But it's in the Everton engine room that 25-year-old Snodin sees his long-term future.

Reid is the man who stands in his way but the fiery Tyke says: "Getting my midfield place back is my number one priority, and to be alongside a super little player like Stuart McCall would be great."

'Comfortable'

"People have told me that they see me as a right-back but I have always been a midfielder and that's where I am most comfortable."

England international Reid is well aware of the threat from his Goodison pal and he is quick to praise the determination of the man who is after his job.

He says: "Ian Snodin is a great young player and the way he has tackled the job of fitting in wherever he's been needed is a credit to him."

"He could have gone to Sheffield Wednesday in the summer but decided to stay on with us and fight for a place. And it has paid off... not only for him, but Everton too."

Snodin himself admits: "It would have been easy for me to clear off back to Yorkshire with Wednesday, but I had a point to prove. Anyway, why should I leave a great club like Everton?"

Because of the crippling injury list confronting manager Colin Harvey and, in particular, the continued absence of influential skipper Kevin Ratcliffe, Snodin kicked off the season in the heart of defence.

And when Ratcliffe returned to the fray Snodin made light of the



switch to right back where he has been keeping £525,000 full-back McDonald out of the team.

"It's completely different being at full-back and I have been caught out of position a couple of times," he confesses. "But luckily I have a bit of speed and I can get myself out of trouble."

Despite playing a foreign role, Snodin, who joined Everton from Leeds for £850,000 in January 1987, has recaptured the confidence he admits he lost last season.

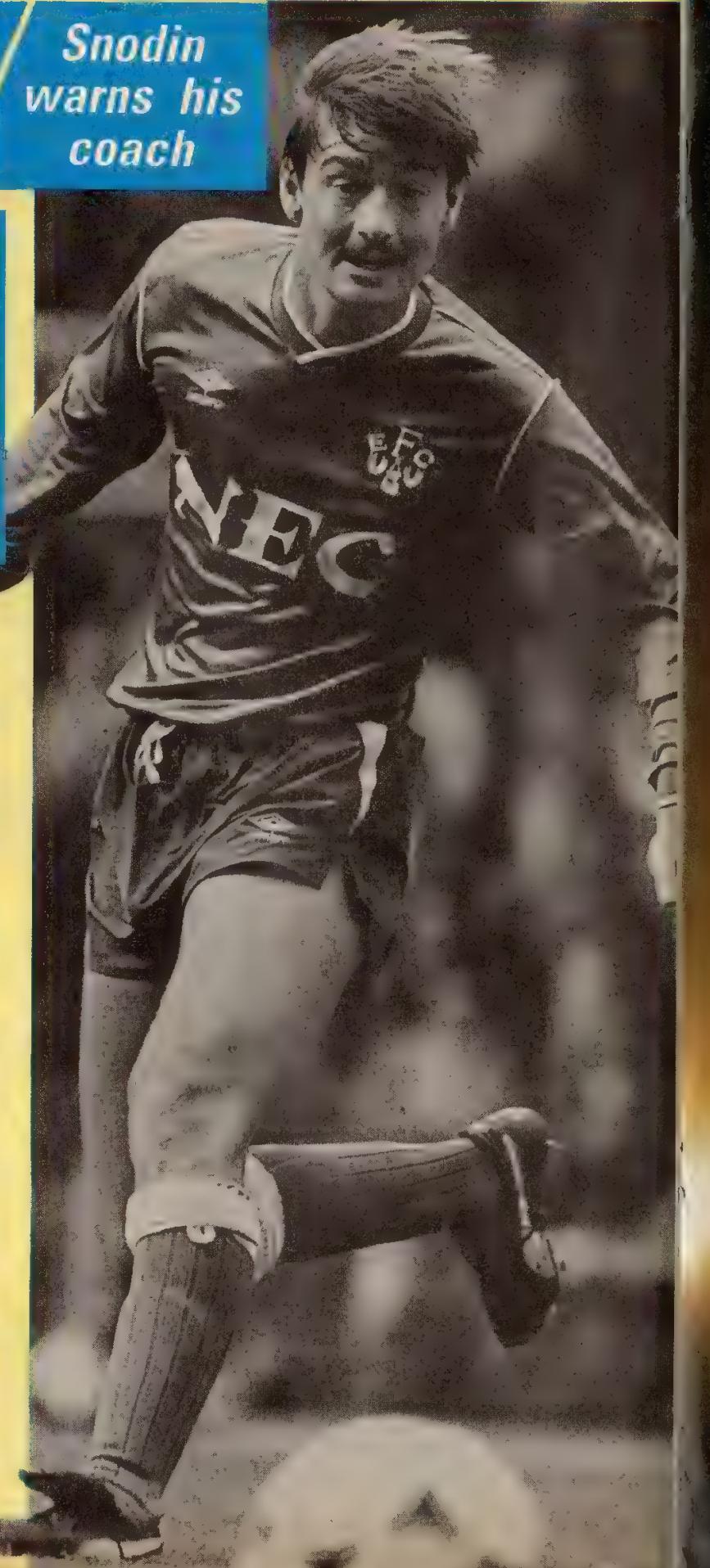
'Scared'

"I had one or two decent games last season but not enough to keep my place in the team. It was all about confidence really. I wouldn't say I was scared to go out onto the pitch but I didn't feel confident enough to try the unusual things."

Now, with the experience of playing in the back four, Snodin is hoping to broaden the scope of his game and become more consistent... if and when a midfield chance comes along.

There are certain aspects of his game he feels need sharpening up. One of his targets is more goals.

"I feel all midfield players have got to be looking for double figures. Perhaps I rush my chances too much, but at least it is something I am conscious of and I will get it right."



aNyONE can bE A POP Star

With Axe

3 Star Works, Salter Street, London, NW10. Tel: 01-969 7070

How would you like to be the leader of your very own pop group? Well, with Axe you can. Not only do you get a great guitar with all the kit, you also get our amazing book and tape set. Just place the tape into your hi-fi and with the help of our book you'll soon be playing along with 30 of the best songs you've ever heard. You can even choose your own style: Reggae, Soul/Funk, Chart Rock or Heavy Metal. It's fun, it's easy, and you don't even have to know anything about making music. So stop listening and start playing. It sounds great.

The Kit. Full size electric guitar. Practice amp. Carrying bag. Lead. Strap. Pick. The amazing book and tape set.

£81

Please send me one (tick 1st and 2nd choice) red white grey black electric guitar with a Soul Funk Chart Rock Reggae Heavy Metal book and tape set. It must be sent off within 24 hours of my order being received (five days if I send a cheque). If I don't like it and I send it back immediately, I'll get a full refund.

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £81 (inc. P & P) made payable to AXE Limited.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Or debit my VISA or Access for £81.

Account No. _____

Dept. 1, AXE Limited, 3 Star Works, Salter Street, London, NW10. Tel: 01-969 7070. Telephone orders accepted or call in if you want.

NORWICH CITY

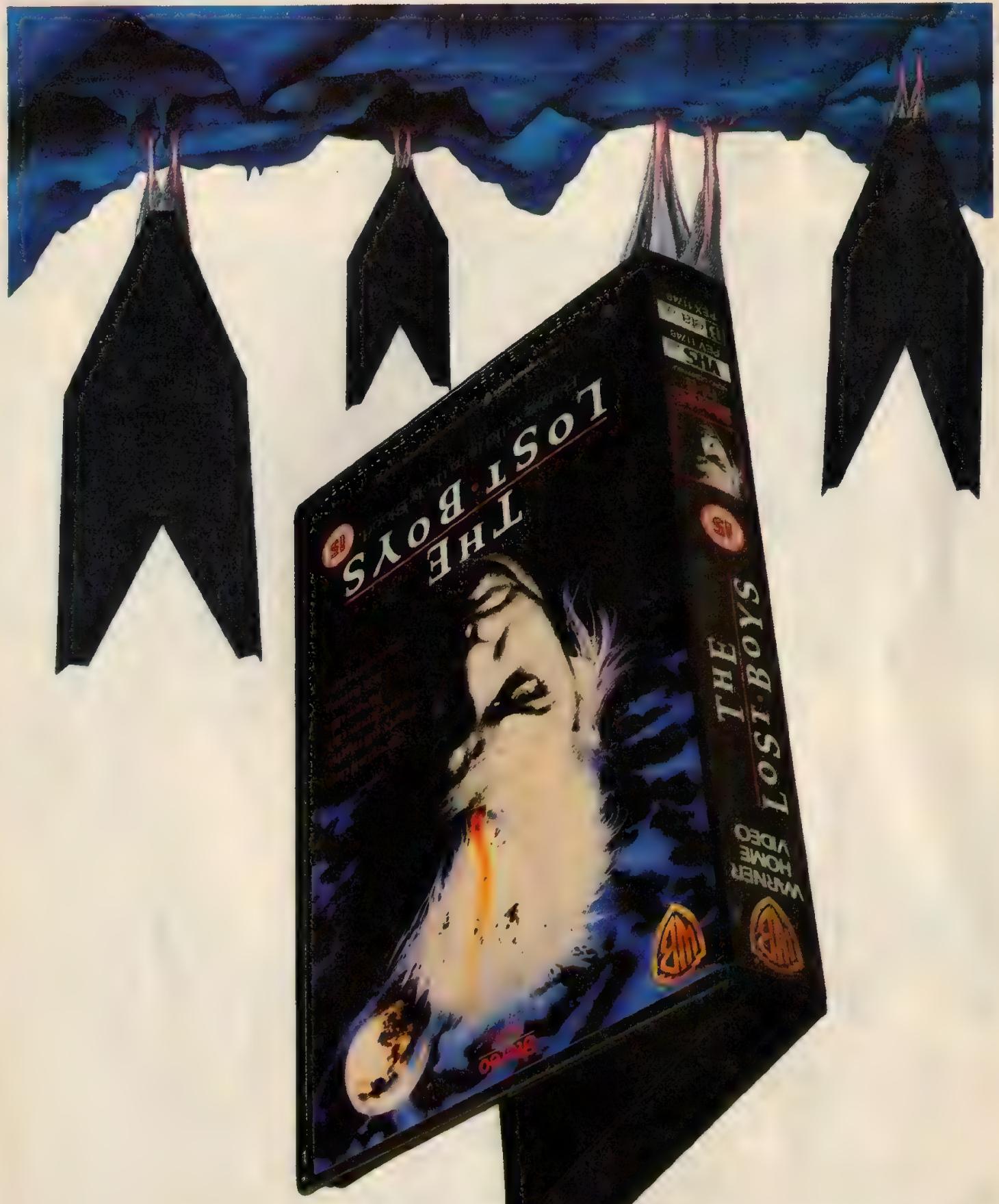
Shoo!

BACK ROW (left to right): Alan Reeves, Ian Butterworth, Robert Rosario, Jon Sheffield, Bryan Gunn, Andy Linighan, Mike Phelan, Andy Townsend.

MIDDLE ROW: Tim Sheppard (physio), Malcolm Allen, Jeremy Goss, Dale Gordon, Simon Ratcliffe, Paul Cook, Ian Culverhouse, Andy Fensome, Mark Bowen, Dave Williams (asst. manager).

FRONT ROW: Mike Walker (reserve team manager), Trevor Putney, Junior Soanes, Robert Fleck, Tony Flanagan, Ruel Fox, Ian Crook, Dave Stringer (manager).





NOW AVAILABLE ON VIDEO



MUTCH: I DON'T ENVY BULL

WOLES fall-guy Andy Mutch has never known quite such a traumatic start to the season.

Repositioned in the Wolves side, Mutch went through a goal famine and even started reconsidering his Molineux future.

The Steve Bull/Mutch double-act which had terrorised the Fourth Division showed signs of a stress fracture.

But now the 'Mutch Ado About Nothing' drama is over. The Liverpool-born 24-year-old is back in the goals again and vows: "I'll never be jealous of Steve Bull."

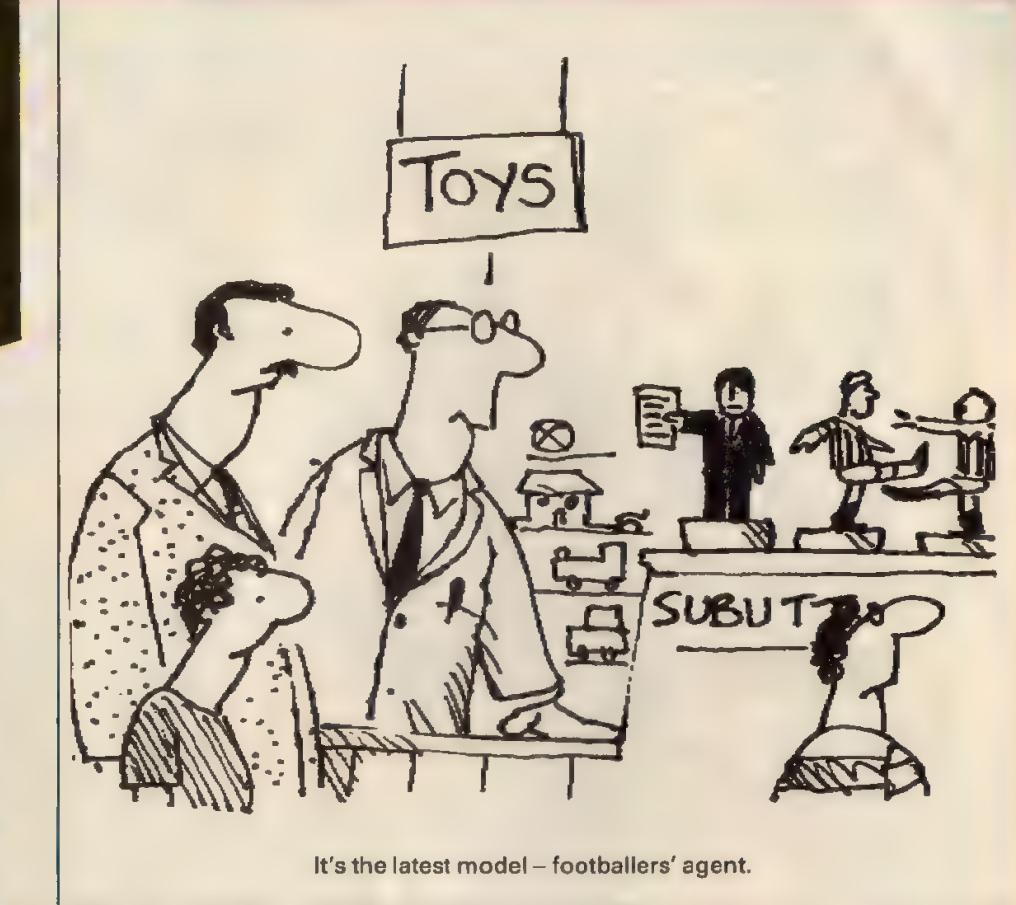
Had he been asked that question earlier in the season, the answer could have been different. Bull fired nine goals in his first 11 games while Mutch was still trying to get off the mark when October began. Alarm bells were ringing for the man who bagged 23 last year.

'Adapt'

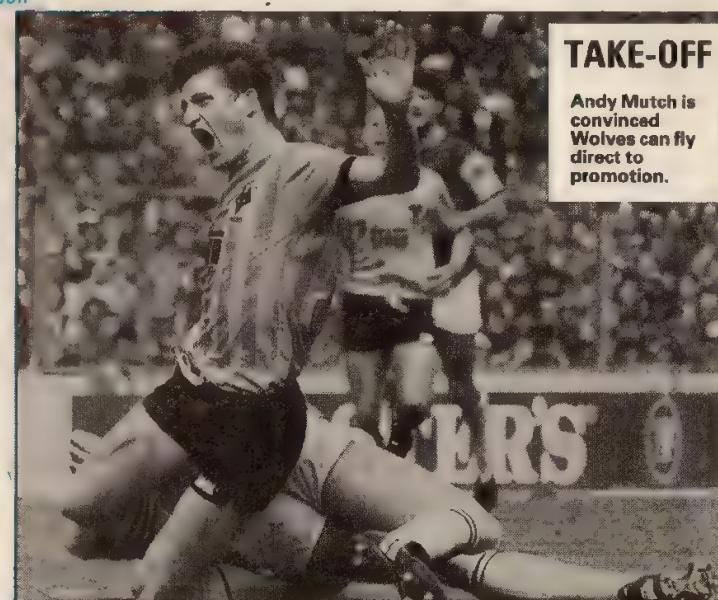
Mutch explains: "It took time to adapt to Graham Turner's new system. We used to knock the ball down the wings and Steve or I would be on the end of the crosses.

"Now Steve leads the attack and I play slightly behind him, laying the ball back to midfield when necessary. Naturally my game suffered a little at first."

Even though Mutch was left on the starting blocks in the race to the top of the goal charts, he still doesn't begrudge Bull his continuing glory



It's the latest model – footballers' agent.



TAKE-OFF

Andy Mutch is convinced Wolves can fly direct to promotion.

Low profile Mutch claims: "I don't envy Steve because as long as one of us gets the goals, that is all that matters."

"Wolves are back in the promotion race and we could go all the way. We may still be in the lower divisions but in no way are we a small club."

That's why Mutch doesn't share the view that Bull, whose 52 goals last season attracted a host of top flight offers, is barmy to stay at Molineux. He says: "Steve could move to a higher League but Wolves could be there before he gets settled. What is the point in him asking for a transfer when Wolves could be in the Second Division next season?"

Offer

The same goes for Mutch, although he maintains the offer must be right when his contract runs out at the end of the season.

He reveals: "There was talk of Newcastle coming in for me at the end of last season but you never know how much truth there is in these stories."

"But I am happy to stay at Wolves, they are moving in the right direction and I would be happy to be part of that if I can."

Graham Turner will be happy to hear that his goalscoring double act can remain intact. If Wolves do win promotion it will take more than a one-man show to push them to the front of the far more competitive charge towards the First Division.

And in Mutch and Bull he has the prolific goalscorers to take Wolves one step nearer the big time.

BEES GO MALTESE

THE MALTESE FALCON is winging his way to England to grace the grounds of the Third Division – thanks to Brentford manager Steve Perryman.

Perryman has swooped for the 24-year-old Maltese Player of the Year, John Buttigieg, from Malta's Sliema Wanderers.

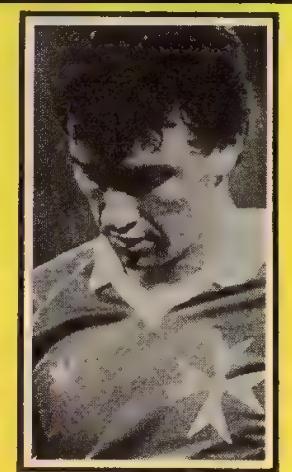
Buttigieg is a specialist sweeper who has already

played 26 international matches for his country and was first spotted by Brentford when he played against Northern Ireland in May.

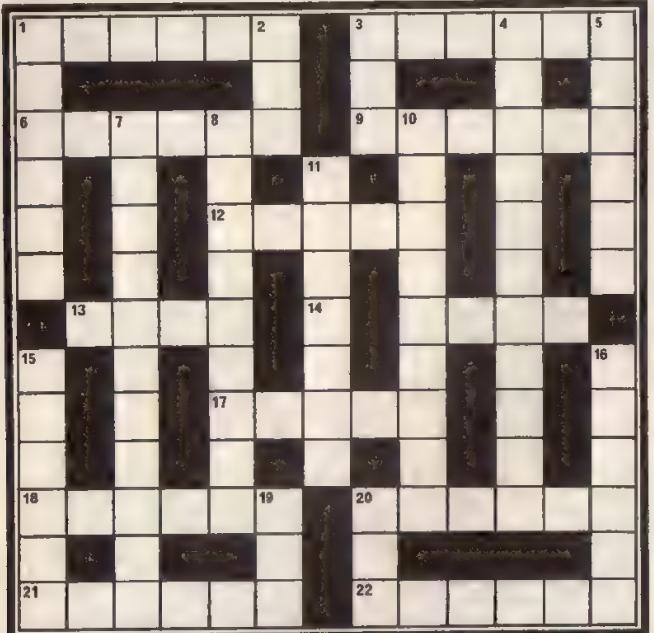
'Offered'

Perryman says: "We invited him to play for us on our pre-season tour in Portugal, and he did so well that we offered him a three-

year contract." Steve is aware that a sweeper may seem a luxury in the Third Division, but is confident that Buttigieg will fit in. "I can't promise that we will adopt a sweeper system – you have to respect the Third Division style of play," he says. "But at least we will have the option, and I'm sure that Buttigieg will be an asset in other positions."



CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS:-

- (1) Nickname of one of the clubs from Selhurst Park. (6)
- (2) Taken over from Ron Atkinson at The Hawthorns. (6)
- (3) England's Aussie-born full-back. (6)
- (9) Christian name of Luton's former Manchester United
- (10) Robert Prytz is one. (5)
- (11) Soccer's governing body. (1.1.1.1)
- (14) Stoke's Tony who was bought from Grimsby. (4)
- (17) How a player sometimes feels when he's at a club too long. (5)
- (18) Former Liverpool and England player who might have been a tennis player. (6)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 39



Robert Prytz

- (20) The man in charge of a football magazine. (6)
- (21) One of Denmark's top clubs. (6)
- (22) QPR's former Southampton defender. (6)

CLUES DOWN:-

- (1) Montrose are known as The Gable (6)
- (2) ... Paulo - well-known Brazilian team. (3)
- (3) Half-time drink for players and fans. (3)
- (4) Former England captain and 100-cap man. (5,6)
- (5) PFA supremo. (6)
- (7) Free-scoring Brentford striker had a spell with Millwall last season. (6,5)
- (8) One of Arsenal's brilliant black stars. (3,6)
- (10) City which boasts The Blades and The Owls. (9)
- (11) Top team from Belgrade. (3,4)
- (15) Tbilisi or Kiev, perhaps. (6)
- (16) Celtic's Eire full-back. (8)
- (19) A Cup match. (3)
- (20) Stretford ... at Old Trafford. (3)

LAUGH LINES



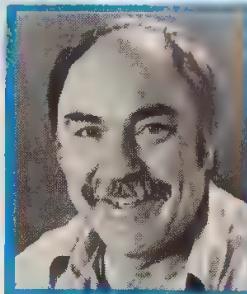
"I'm booking you for blatantly intimidating these defenders."



"Ever since the boss heard that Maradona learnt to play football with a bundle of old rags..."

Write exclusively to: Jimmy Greaves, SHOOT! King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.
£10 for star letter, £5 for others published. Overseas readers receive SHOOT! t-shirt (please state size S M L). No personal correspondence can be entered into.

GREAVSIE



Reds will be back

I'm no Liverpool fan, but it's stupid to write them off after so few games. It's a sad fact that they'll still be Champions come the end of the season.

C. WESTLAKE,
WICK.

It's stupid to write Liverpool off at any stage of the season, but at least it's not a piece of cake for them this time. They already had the title wrapped up by this time last season. I'd love to see anybody without a scouse accent getting the trophy this time and have a sneaking feel for Arsenal.

Desert masters

What do England expect to learn from playing friendlies against the likes of Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia? If they can't find better opposition than that, they might as well not bother.

DANIEL THOMAS,

SUNBURY ON THAMES, MIDDLESEX.

It's very difficult to find somewhere to go at this time of year, because you don't want to show your hand to the rest of Europe and you can't take a whole week off to go to South America. These Middle Eastern teams are no dummies any more, and it's a good chance to get the squad together.

Tedious TV

Norwich and Millwall may be setting the First Division alight but not according to ITV, who still cannot see beyond Everton, Manchester United and the same handful of other 'big' clubs.

ADAM MULLERY,

MIDDLESBROUGH.

I'm sure even Millwall and Canaries fans will admit it would have taken a crystal ball to foresee their teams' great form this season. I'm sure that as soon as they can be accommodated on the programme schedules, they will be. And at least The Match now shows brief highlights of all the First Division matches.



Costly cards

It looks as though Mrs Thatcher is going to get her way and force a membership card system on soccer. But it's the small clubs who will suffer because they cannot afford to implement such a costly scheme.

JOHN QUIGLEY,
SALISBURY, WILTS.

I'm not a fan of the membership system and wish the Government would backtrack. But they won't, because soccer has done nothing about hooliganism for 20 years and so must have action forced on them. But I fear it's the thin end of a very thick wedge and it won't be that long before we'll have to carry ID cards at all times. It's the start of the end of personal freedom.

Dynamite Dean

In spite of all the controversy surrounding his transfer, Dean Saunders will be a brilliant buy for Derby. As Arthur Cox says, he can become another Kevin Keegan.

ALAN HALEROW,
BURRA, SHETLAND.

I've got nothing against the lad and hope he does well at the Baseball Ground. Dean (above) has already started to get his name on the scoresheet, and that's why the Maxwells transferred so much money for him. But I still don't like the way the deal was done and I fear the stink is going to linger for a good while yet.

WALLY OF THE WEEK

Stand by for a shift in the balance of power from Merseyside to the North East. Newcastle, Sunderland and Middlesbrough all have very good young teams and will mature to become a major force in Europe.

JAMIE HANSON,

CHESTER-LE-STREET,
CO. DURHAM.

We can all dream, can't we pal? I'd love to think I'll be heading up the A1 instead of the M6 to see the future Champions, but I reckon by the time your mob are top dogs they'll be travelling in rockets.

AVAILABLE FROM W.H. SMITH, VIRGIN, & SELECTED BRANCHES OF
WOOLWORTHS, BOOTS, JOHN MENZIES, & HMV



CASTLE COMMUNICATIONS PLC, 15/16 NORTHFIELDS PROSPECT, PUTNEY BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON SW18 1PE
A CASTLE COMMUNICATIONS PLC RELEASE

TERRIFIC TREV

QPR manager Jim Smith forked out £700,000 to strengthen his side during the summer but it is a 34-year-old he picked up on a free transfer who is making the biggest impact at Loftus Road this season. Trevor Francis is back to the form he showed in his England days and loving every moment after joining the club from Rangers at the end of last term. "I can't believe how well it's going at the moment," says Francis. "I've just been offered a new two year contract that will keep me in the First Division until I'm 36. I never dreamt that I would be playing in the top flight at that age," says the rejuvenated striker.

SNAPSHOTS

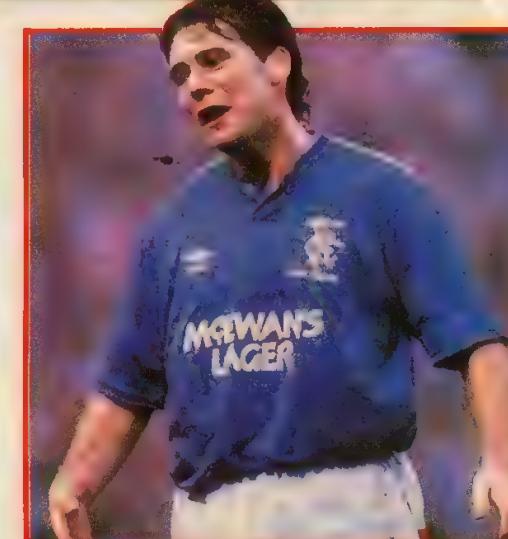
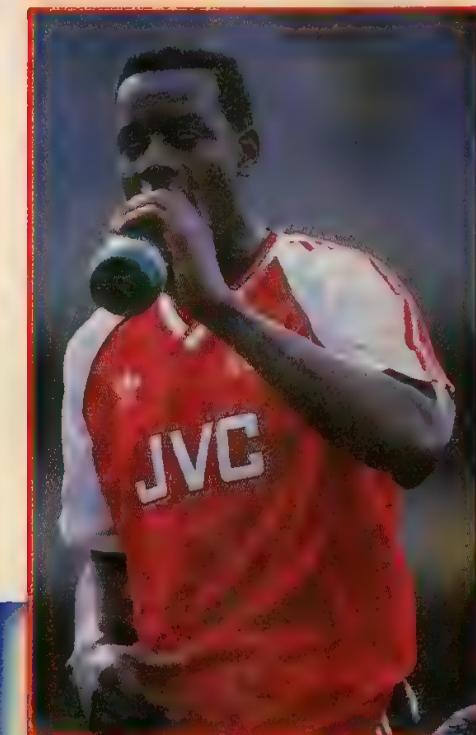
IT'S BACK...
the page that
puts the hoot
'into SHOOT!'



It's back to the drawing board for Norwich City's Dale Gordon... who thought he'd return to the grass roots to discover a new long-throw technique. But all he got was brewers' droop.

Is Michael Thomas taking refreshments, or singing into a make believe microphone? Only one green bottle knows the answer.

Terry Fenwick tries desperately hard to convince himself he went up in the world when leaving Queens Park Rangers for rock-bottom Tottenham.



Ally McCoist looks cheased off - and who can blame him? He's not won a medal for at least a couple of weeks.

Sheffield Wednesday's Gary Megson dives for cover. He's heard a rumour that Newcastle want him to be their new manager.



NEW QUILTED AND COLLEGE STYLE JACKETS NEW

with embroidered football & team name

ALSO AVAILABLE
KNITWEAR
BOXER SHORTS
SWEATSHIRTS
BEDDING
TOWELS
RUGS

FREE COLOUR BROCHURE AVAILABLE



QUILTED JACKETS

Washable with elasticated Cuffs & Waistband

SIZES 28", 30", 32" £22.95

SIZES S, M, L, XL, XXL £27.95

COLLEGE JACKETS Washable with elasticated

Collar, Cuffs & Waistband

SIZES 28", 30", 32" £16.95

SIZES S, M, L, XL, XXL £19.95

TEAMS AVAILABLE LIVERPOOL, ARSENAL,
TOTTENHAM, MAN. UTD. EVERTON, RANGERS

RING OUR ORDER HOTLINE NOW 0604-45882

UK POSTAGE CHARGES

Up to £20 £2.00

£20 to £30 £2.50

£30 to £50 £3.00

£50 over FREE

Ireland & Overseas
Add £2 to above prices

PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY:

CHEQUE POSTAL ORDERS

TRANSCASH A/C NO. 412 7366

VISA ACCESS

Phone Orders for Visa & Access only
Send by post to:- BECTEX (ST8)
BEC HOUSE, HIGHLANDS AVENUE,
NORTHAMPTON NN3 1BQ
CHEQUES - Allow 28 days for delivery.
MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE IF NOT SATISFIED

Bectex
(0604) 45882

24 HOUR ANSWERING SERVICE

All I want for Christmas is...:



umbro® 88/89

GET YOUR LATEST FOOTBALL TEAM KITS AND LEISUREWEAR NOW! FROM YOUR FAVOURITE MAIL ORDER COMPANY, REPLICA WORLD (formerly Worthington Sports)



FREE!

Your own personally autographed Christmas card especially for YOU. Featuring the signatures of our National or England or Scotland teams. (See coupon below)

NB: IF ORDERING MORE THAN ONE TEAM PLEASE USE DIFFERENT IDENTIFIERS EG. OR IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO CUT YOUR MAGAZINE SEND ORDER ON SEPARATE SHEET.

REPLICA KITS TEAMS AVAILABLE:-

England H A 3rd kit ; Celtic H A 3rd kit ; Chelsea H A 3rd kit ; Everton H A 3rd kit ; Aberdeen H A ; Derby H A ; Dunfermline H A ; Leeds H A ; Man City H A ; Newcastle H A ; Notts F A ; Oxford H A ; Plymouth H A ; Rangers H A ; Sheff Utd H A ; Sheff W H A ; Watford H A ;

SHIRTS:- 22/24 26/28 30/32 £15.95; 34/36 38/40 42 £19.95. N.B. Scotland £17.95; N.B. Scotland £22.50.

SHORTS (INC SCOTLAND):- 24" 26" 28" £7.95; 30" 32" 34" 36" £9.95.

SOCKS (INC SCOTLAND):- Shoe Size 1-5 £3.50; Shoe Size 6-11 £3.95.

TRACKSUITS:- Teams available: England Chelsea Everton Aberdeen Derby Dunfermline Leeds Man City Newcastle Notts F Oxford Plymouth Rangers Sheff Utd Sheff W Watford

26 28 30 32 £28.50; N.B. Scotland £32.95; 34 36/38 38/40 40/42 £38.50. N.B. Scotland £41.95.

GOALKEEPER SHIRT:- England Aberdeen (No 30/32) Celtic Everton (No 30/32) Rangers Sheff W

22/24 26/28 30/32 £17.50; N.B. Scotland H A £18.95; N.B. Scotland H A £24.95. 34/36 38/40 £21.50. N.B. Scotland H A £24.95.

GOALKEEPER SHORTS:- England H only Scotland H A 24 26 28 £8.95; 30 32 34 36 £10.95.

GOALKEEPER SOCKS:- England H A Scotland H A Shoe Size 1-5 £3.50; 6-11 £4.50.

TRAINING TOPS:- England Scotland 34 36/38 38/40 42 44 £21.50.

SWEAT TOPS:- England Celtic Chelsea 30 32 £16.95; 34 36/38 38/40 42 44 £21.50.

RUNNING OUT TOPS:- Aberdeen Notts F Rangers 30 32 £16.95; 34 36/38 38/40 42 44 £21.50.

JOGGING PANTS:- Aberdeen Celtic 26 28 £13.50; 30 32 34 36 £15.50.

SHELL SUITS:- England Scotland 34/36 38/40 42 44 £49.95.

BAGS:- Boot Bags £4.25; Small Holdalls £7.95. Available in the following teams only:- England Scotland Aberdeen Celtic Chelsea Derby Everton Newcastle Rangers Medium Size Holdalls: Available England Scotland £10.95.

RUGBY SHIRTS:- England (Football) 34/36 38/40 40/42 44/46 £23.95.

RUGBY LEAGUE REPLICAS:- Teams available: Gt Britain Hull Warrington St Helens Wigan H A Sizes: 26/28 30/32 £17.50; 34/36 38/40 £21.95; 42/44 £23.95. Also Leeds H A Sizes: 26/28 30/32 £18.50; 34/36 38/40 £24.95. 42/44 £27.50.

RUGBY UNION REPLICAS:- Teams available: England Wales Scotland Ireland New Zealand Springboks British Lions Australia France Single sizes 28 30 £12.95; 32 £14.95; 34 36 £19.50; 38 40 42 £19.95. 44 46 £21.95.

ALSO AVAILABLE: HUMMEL:- Spurs H A ; Coventry H A ; Aston Villa H A ; Sunderland H A ; Real Madrid H A ; Wimbledon H A ; Wales H ; Denmark H .

SHIRTS:- 22/24 26/28 30/32 £16.99; 34/36 36/38 38/40 42/44 £19.99. N.B. Add £3 for Denmark and Real Madrid. Real Madrid available only in sizes 34/36 36/38 38/40 42/44 .

SHORTS:- 24" 26" 28" £8.50; 30" 32" 34" 36" £9.99.

SOCKS:- Shoe 1-5 £4.99; Shoe 6-11 £5.50.

TRACKSUITS:- Spurs 28/30 30/32 32/34 £32.99; 34/36 36/38 38/40 40/42 42/44 £39.99. Coventry Aston Villa 28/30 30/32 32/34 £29.99; 34/36 36/38 38/40 40/42 42/44 £34.99.

HUMMEL FOOTBALLS:- Liverpool Spurs Man Utd £13.95.

FREE! Christmas Card (England or Scotland) with every purchase.

I wish my free Christmas card team to be.....

Please state child's Christian name.....

**REPLICA
WORLD**

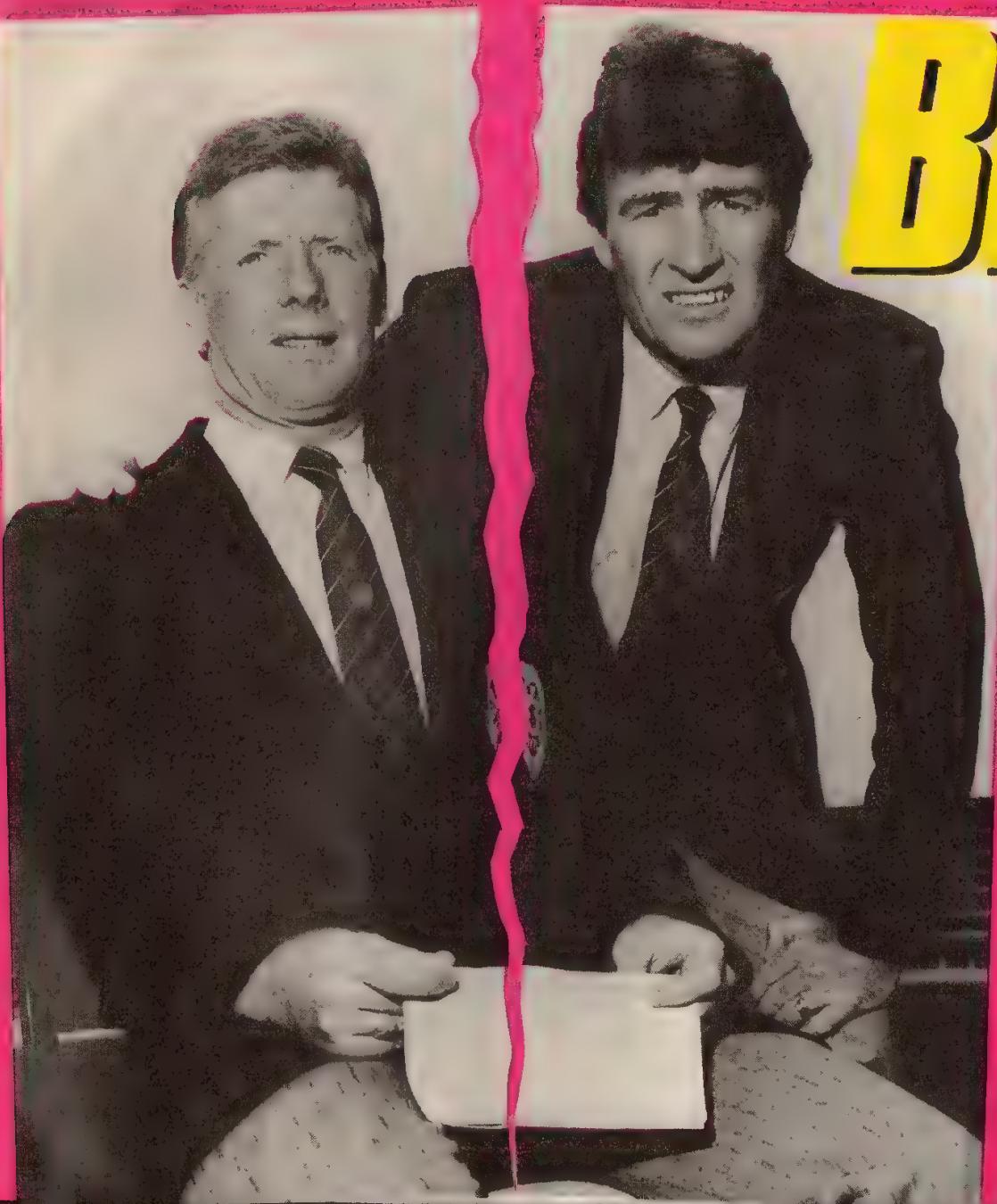
NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
.....
Post Code.....
Tel. No.....
My number is.....

PO BOX BD303
BRADFORD
W. YORKS
BD1 2AG
Telephone: 0274 723924

FREE CARRIAGE IN UK ON CLOTHING
Please make cheques/P.O.'s payable to Replica World
PLEASE ALLOW UP TO 28 DAYS FOR DELIVERY

24 HOUR ORDERING SERVICE

I wish to pay by Barclaycard/Access Card Expires on _____ S.H.3.



Despite Hearts' miserable showing this season, one man whose performances have never been anything less than polished is Dave McPherson.

Yet Hearts £400,000 record buy believes that one of the key reasons behind the slump of the Tynecastle men is the fact that the Premier League is no place for new signings to easily find their feet – and it's noticeable how new boys Eamonn Bannon and Iain Ferguson have struggled to reproduce the form that made them such highly rated players at Dundee United.

"From my own experience, I know it can take two or three months for a new player to settle into a club," says McPherson.

"And it's been difficult for everyone involved, with John Robertson leaving for Newcastle and new boys Iain and Eamonn trying to fit in."

Both men have been in and out of the side and although Ferguson is the club's top scorer, he has spent much of the last month on the bench.

THE AWFUL TRUTH by Dave McPherson

So why have Hearts hit the skids?

hardest league in Europe.
"Nearly all the clubs are highly organised and the richer clubs such as Rangers, Celtic or Aberdeen don't hesitate to spend money if things go wrong. We can't afford to do that. We're a big club but Hearts have only been out of credit to the bank in the last 12 months."

But the big defender has a word of praise for the Tynecastle faithful. "I know the whole situation must be heartbreaking for them but they really have stuck by us."

"At Tynecastle we've got a much smaller pool of players. That's why injuries to men such as defender Craig Levein – who's been out for most of the last two years – and Sandy Clark, can be

BROKEN HEARTS



Sandy stunner

To say Scottish football was shocked when Hearts axed their co-manager Sandy Jardine would be putting it mildly.

Hearts fans were stunned when club owner Wallace Mercer showed former Scotland World Cup star Jardine the door.

The reason? A run of bad League results that had catapulted the team that started the season with reasonable title aspirations into third bottom spot.

When Jardine hung up his boots two years ago, Mercer appointed him co-manager with Alex MacDonald.

Mercer said at the time: "MacDonald and Jardine go together like ham and eggs. We think they are the best management combination in Scotland."

That faith ended abruptly when, with just two wins out of 13 Premier League games, the Tynecastle board decided that after all two heads were not better than one and Jardine was sacked.

The puzzle as to why Jardine got the chop when as co-managers both, or neither, should be guilty, is unlikely to be solved.

Mercer says: "We offered Alex the chance to resign as well out of courtesy since he and Sandy were

so close and might have wanted to stick together as a team, but he declined. We're happy to have him stay."

"We tried dual management and it didn't work. It was not specifically team performances which led to the decision. Playing performance is only part of the overall picture. The move was about the well-being of the club."

The last remark gave more substance to the rumours that there was friction between Jardine and some players, particularly departed star John Robertson, who it is said was given a hard time by Jardine in training for not pulling his weight.

MacDonald has kept a firm silence on the affair but obviously the departure of his close friend has deeply upset him.

He says: "It's almost like a death in the family. I doubt if I'll ever get over what happened to Sandy."

"But it's my job to get the players to remember the team

spirit which has carried us through so much in the last few years. That spirit is still here. It is time for them to stand up for themselves."

"The pressure shouldn't worry us. Sandy and I reared players here to be able to live with that

kind of pressure. We need to roll our sleeves up and work for the good of Hearts."

For those who felt Hearts were a bubble about to burst, the first warning sign came last April. Then, in the Scottish Cup Semi-Final they led Celtic 1-0 with just three minutes left. 180 seconds later Celtic were 2-1 in front and Tynecastle was heading for another massive headache.

After that there were telling statements from fans, Press and the management that maybe it was time for a few of the players to part company with the club. Few would have forecast that it would be Jardine who was to go.

Driven to tears

Hearts captain Gary Mackay felt Sandy Jardine's departure more than most.

For the Scotland international, who's been at Tynecastle since he was 15, played countless times in the same side as the ex-Ranger before Jardine gave up playing to concentrate on management.

Mackay appreciated the help that Jardine gave to young players such as himself, especially in the days when Hearts were struggling away in the First Division.

When Jardine was axed, he typically thought of his players and instead of just leaving Tynecastle by the back door, journeyed across the city to Hearts' training ground to say goodbye.

"Sandy could have hidden behind his front door but he left the club with a degree of dignity that was overwhelming," says Gary.

"Some of the players were almost in tears."

Guilty

And Mackay, who a year ago was on top of the world after scoring on his Scotland debut in Bulgaria knows that he is as guilty as the rest of the players when blame for the results which cost Jardine his job is being shared out.

"We know that managers pick the team but it is ultimately the responsibility of players to perform on the park. We have to take our share of the responsibility and start producing the form that made this club one of the most feared clubs in Scotland in recent years."

Mackay's personal story has really summed up the picture for Hearts this season – promising so much, delivering so little.

He has struggled to find form and was even dropped last month. "I know I've not played well. Somehow the harder you try, the worse it gets. But I'll get back to my best and so will Hearts."



a big blow to the club."

After taking a real jolt to his confidence when he discovered that Graeme Souness wanted to sell him after he had played in all of Rangers' 44 matches in their Championship winning season in 1987, McPherson has settled into Tynecastle and loves being a

"I was sick at the time but it's the best move I've ever made."

McPherson has all the qualities a top central defender needs. He is dominating in the air, battles to the last, displays a cool touch

HEARTS' ROLLER COASTER DECADE

1981 – Hearts, in severe financial crisis and hours from being closed by the bank, are saved by millionaire business man Wallace Mercer.

1982 – Hearts are stopped by the Scottish League from conducting any transfer deals because of their bad debts.

1982 – Hearts win promotion to Premier League.

1984-85 – Hearts qualify for Europe. They lose in UEFA Cup to Paris St Germain.

1985-86 – Hearts go from October until last game of the season without suffering any League defeats. But on May 14 at Dens Park, Albert Kydd scores twice in the last seven minutes as Dundee win 2-0 and Celtic snatch the title on goal difference. Hearts lose Scottish Cup Final 3-0 to Aberdeen.

1987 – St Mirren shock Hearts by winning Scottish Cup Semi-Final 2-1.

1988 – Celtic score two goals in last three minutes to beat Hearts 2-1 in Scottish Cup Semi.



HOME SHOP MAIL ORDER SPECIALISTS XMAS SELECTION

UMBRO PRICES

TEAM SHIRTS ("Scotland")

26/28, 30/32 £17.99 *£18.99

34/36, 38/40, 42 £21.99 *£23.99

TEAM SHORTS

26, 28 £8.99

30, 32, 34, 36 £10.99

TEAM SOCKS

BOYS 13-1 £3.50

L BOYS 2-5 £3.50

MENS 6-12 £4.50

TRAINING TOPS

Scotland only 30/32 £19.99

England & Scotland 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 £22.99

TRACKSUITS ("Scotland")

26, 28, 30, 32 £29.99 *£34.99

34, 36, 38, 40, 42 £39.99 *£44.99

Available but not illustrated

Celtic, Rangers, Everton

ADIDAS PRICES

PROMOTION JACKETS

Liverpool & Man. Utd. 34/36, 38/40, 42/44 £54.99

APT SWEATSHIRTS

Liverpool/Man. Utd. 30/32 £25.99 *£34/36/38/40/42/44 £29.99

HOME & AWAY KIT

Shirts 26/28, 30/32 £15.50

Shorts 34, 36, 38/40, 42 £19.99

Socks 26, 28 £8.99

30, 32, 34, 36 £10.99

NUMBERING SERVICE

AVAILABLE - 90p PER

NUMERAL - ring for details

Sunderland Home and Away

Shirts only available.

Other team kits available.

Ring for further details.

HUMMEL PRICES

SPURS HOME & AWAY SHIRTS

26/28, 30/32 £17.50

34/6, 38/40, 42 £21.99

SHORTS

26, 28 £8.99

30, 32, 34, 36 £10.99

SOCKS

S BOYS £4.50

L BOYS £4.50

MENS £5.50

NUMBERING SERVICE

AVAILABLE - 90p PER

NUMERAL - ring for details

Sunderland Home and Away

Shirts only available.

Other team kits available.

Ring for further details.

ORDER FORM AND INFORMATION

FAST DELIVERY - 1st CLASS POST
(Ring for availability for very urgent delivery)

6 HOMESHOP HOTLINE. Telephone Orders and Enquiries. (0533) 511809
Answer phone 24hr service.

Just fill in the coupon and send to Sport Rendez-vous, Homeshop, 6 St. Martins Sq., Leicester

ORDER FORM (Block Capitals)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____

TEL NO. _____

ITEM _____

SIZE _____ NO. _____ VALUE _____

POSTAGE
TOTAL

Sterling only postage UK £1.00 per order EIRE & OVERSEAS £2.50 per item.
I enclose a crossed cheque/P.O. payable to Sport Rendez-vous value £.
Or debit my Access/Visa account by the amount above.

Card type _____

VISA

delete

Card No. _____

Exp Date _____

Signature _____

EUROPEAN ORDERS MASTERCARD EUROCARD ACCEPTED. STERLING ONLY.

I'M WORTH EVERY PENNY

says Charlton's £430,000

COLIN PATES

Charlton new boy Colin Pates believes he will prove to be worth every penny of Lennie Lawrence's ambitious £430,000 lay-out.

The former Chelsea captain left Stamford Bridge under a cloud after Bobby Campbell made it clear Pates wasn't part of his promotion plans.

A loan period at Charlton preceded the club's record transfer deal. But 27-year-old Pates is now proud of the price tag on his head, despite the added pressure it inevitably brings.

He says: "I reckon by saving Charlton between 20 and 25 goals against every season, I can show them I am worth that sort of money."

"If we don't concede too many goals and we can win a place in the top half of the table, that £430,000 will be money well spent."

Develop

Pates, however, doesn't intend to develop a £500,000 swagger on or off the field.

He says: "Naturally the price tag puts more than a little pressure on me. But nobody is better than anyone else at Charlton and I'm not going to go around saying, 'Look at me, I'm worth half a million pounds.'

"I've also learned a few things from my years at Chelsea. I saw many a big-money player start to struggle at Stamford Bridge because they were trying too hard to live up to their transfer fee."

"I'm deliberately trying not to fall into that trap. By going the opposite way, I'm playing some of my best football for ages."

Pates believes that leaving Chelsea will prove to be a blessing in disguise.

He explains: "In the First

Division you have to raise your game against the country's best players. But in the Second you might think you have played brilliantly when in fact you have just relaxed against lesser opposition."

But amazingly he confesses he might never have made the move had events not somehow overtaken him.

He says: "It happened so fast I really didn't have time to think about it, otherwise things could always have been different."

"After all, to an outsider Charlton were just a team who were regularly involved in the relegation play-offs."

Pates now admits he has been pleasantly surprised. He claims: "There is so much pace at Charlton it is unbelievable. Michael Bennett, Paul Williams and John Humphrey are just some of the speed merchants and manager Lennie Lawrence has certainly encouraged them to go out and use that pace."

But would Pates ever return to his beloved Stamford Bridge under a new regime?

"That depends on how skint I was," he jokes.

"But I tell you one thing, I'd never go near the manager's job ..."



NOBBY



Q Why is Bobby Mimms now known as Ena Sharples?
A Because he's always got his head in the net.



Yes, folks, it's El Tel's Tottenham birthday party so it's jelly and ice cream time at White Hart Lane. But what's really gone wrong for Terry Venables? Find out in next week's

Shoot!

REVEALED

SHOOT'S Brain of Soccer (and it ain't Tim Cory of Bushey in Hertfordshire... you scored three).

WHY Tony Cottee is going back to West Ham.

WHY Mrs Wallace is so popular with Southampton's star finder.



...it's even better than acid house.

LOOK RIGHT DAY & NIGHT

Pyjamas and Robes (please state when ordering, replica or new design). EVERTON, LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND, MANCHESTER UTD, ARSENAL, WEST HAM, SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY, ASTON VILLA, COVENTRY, MANCHESTER CITY, CELTIC, RANGERS, HEARTS, NEWCASTLE, IPSWICH, DUNDEE UTD, BRAZIL, NORWICH, SOUTHAMPTON, SUNDERLAND

Sweatshirts, T' shirts and Polo 'Ts' CELTIC, RANGERS, LIVERPOOL, EVERTON, MANCHESTER UTD, HEARTS, WEST HAM, COVENTRY, ASTON VILLA, BRAZIL, SOUTHAMPTON, SUNDERLAND

Jogging Suits LIVERPOOL, EVERTON, MANCHESTER UTD, WEST HAM, ASTON VILLA, SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY, BRAZIL, ARSENAL, HEARTS, NORWICH, MANCHESTER CITY, CELTIC, RANGERS, SOUTHAMPTON, SUNDERLAND

SIZES	PYJAMAS (POLY)	ROBE (POLY)	ROBE EDITION TOWELLING
22/24"	£7.50	£8.00	£11.00
26/28"	£9.50	£9.00	£12.00
30/32"	£9.50	£10.00	£14.50
SMALL	£12.00	£15.00	£21.00
MEDIUM	£13.50	£16.00	£23.00
LARGE	£15.00	£16.50	£25.00

SIZES	JOG. SUITS	SWEAT SHIRTS	T' SHIRTS	POLO SHIRT
22/24"	£9.00	£6.50	£3.25	£7.99
26/28"	£11.00	£8.00	£3.25	£7.99
30/32"	£13.00	£9.00	£3.50	£7.99
SMALL	£14.00	£11.00	£3.50	£9.99
MEDIUM	£16.50	£12.00	£3.50	£9.99
LARGE	£20.00	£13.00	£3.50	£9.99

NAME..... TEAM..... 2nd choice.....
ADDRESS..... Item/s.....
TOWN/COUNTY..... Size/s.....
POSTCODE..... Quantity.....
PHONE NO..... Overseas customers: Please apply for price.
Irish customers: Sterling only. Allow 28 days for delivery.
Amt enclosed..... Please note: An alternative item may be sent, subject to availability.
Code No.....



CHARLERY

Big fish in a small pond...but for how much longer?

With value-for-money increasingly hard to find in the lower divisions and the standard of non-League football rising all the time, it is no surprise that Football League clubs are regularly sending their spies to GM Vauxhall Conference games.

In recent months, strikers Steve Gall of Maidstone United and Steve Burr of Macclesfield Town have been tipped to follow former Barnet trio Lee Payne (now Newcastle United), Robert Codner and Nicky Bissett (both Brighton) into the League – but we believe we've found the rough diamond to outshine them all.

A year ago, van driver Ken Charlery spent his spare time playing for Spartan League club Beckton United in the wastelands of East London. This weekend he steps out at Bristol Rovers in the FA Cup First Round for upwardly-mobile Conference club Fisher Athletic from the heart of the capital's yuppie Docklands.

And Rovers' England Under-21 goalkeeper Nigel Martyn will have to live up to his £1 million reputation to guard against an FA Cup upset.

Fisher, who ten years ago were in the Spartan League themselves, are doing to the Conference what neighbours Millwall are doing to the First Division and the links don't just end there, with five former Lions – Tony Tower, Dean Neal, Dave Mehmet, Micky Nutton and Andy Massey – all lining up for 'Fish'. But it is Charlery, who will be 24 at the end of this month, who

is winning the rave reviews, and long-serving manager Dogan Arif says: "He does things other players don't do. He is unpredictable and terribly difficult to mark, as there is no rigid pattern to his game. He is deceptive, quick, has very good reactions and a natural striker's instinct."

"Unusually for a striker he tackles well, chases lost causes and never gives up. He played the other week two days after having five stitches above his eye. Just by being there he created the space for Dean Neal

QUIZ ANSWERS

- Forest won 2-1. 2. Millwall 3. Middlesbrough
- Hyson 5 Ian Andrews 6. Manchester United
- Brian Horton 8 Wimbledon 9. Ian Stodin
- Benson 11. True 12. Header 13. Paul
- McStar and Mo Johnston 14. Denmark 15. Villa Park 16. Brian Talbot 17. Blackpool 18. Martin
- Hearts and Dundee United 20. Allen McKnight and Gerry Peyton

X-WORD ANSWERS

- ACROSS: (1) Eagles, (3) Talbot; (6) Dorrie, (8) Ashley, (12) Swede, (13) FIFE, (14) Ford, (17) Stale, (18) A'Court, (20) Editor, (21) Odense, (22) Dennis)
DOWN: (1) Endies, (2) Sae, (3) Tee, (4) Billy Wright, (5) Taylor, (7) Robbie Cooke, (8) Gus Caesar, (10) Sheffield, (11) Red Star, (13) Dynamo, (16) Morris, (18) Tie, (20) End

FA CUP STARFINDER
The series in which SHOOT digs into grass roots football to discover the stars of tomorrow.

KEN CHARLERY
FISHER ATHLETIC

FACTFILE

Ken Charlery
Born: 1963
Position: Striker
Height: 5ft 10in
Weight: 13st 6lb
Goals this season: 10
Goals last season: 12
Goals in FA Cup: 1

to crack a hat-trick."

Arif paid Charlery a club record £1,000 for Charlery and he says: "That sort of money is a gamble for us, but he is worth at least a hundred times that fee now. Codner, who is a midfielder, cost £115,000. We will want a lot more for this kid – everybody is crying out for goalscorers."

Stoke City and Brighton are among the clubs trailing him, but Arif says of his travelling forward: "In under a year he has adapted to a jump of four Divisions and he is going places – but he can do that with us. We can win the League this year, but if we don't we will next season."

In the past, Fisher have propelled John Burnstead (Chelsea), Trevor Aylott (Barnsley) and Paul Shinners (Leyton Orient) into League football, but their most famous old boys are current World boxing champion Lloyd Honeyghan, who still watches the football team, and ex-champ Terry Downes, uncle of Sheffield United's Wally and a former Fisher player, who were both at the Associated Downside Boys' Boxing Club.

Shootmart

PROGRAMMES



**FREE
FOOTBALL
PROGRAMMES**

Send 50p in unused stamps (to cover postage) for a copy of our 88/89 Season Catalogue listing thousands of mini condition programmes available, (all reduced in price including Finals, Semis, Internationals, English, Scottish & Irish League teams, etc.) and receive a 'Promotional Pack' of Programmes (worth £2.50) - FREE!

FREE COLLECTORS KIT

Send £5 (inc post) for our Special Introductory Bundle (50 programmes all from different clubs) and receive FREE our Programmes Collectors Kit (containing hints on Collecting, Programme Folder, Swings Bag & Label, Program Card, League Club Map and Pitch, Collectors Mug Mat, Stick-on-Badge, Gummied Window Strip, Programme Collectors Sticker, Programme Marker and Football Balloon)

BARGAIN BUNDLES

50 Big Match Specials & Foreign etc.....	£10
105 87/88 League Teams Programmes.....	£10
120 87/88 Cup Teams Programmes.....	£10
120 85/86 League Teams Programmes.....	£10
120 84/85 League Teams Programmes.....	£10
135 83/84 League Teams Programmes.....	£10
135 82/83 League Teams Programmes.....	£10
135 81/82 League Teams Programmes.....	£10
150 80/81 League Teams Programmes.....	£10
150 79/80 League Teams Programmes.....	£10
150 78/79 League Teams Programmes.....	£10

All prices include Postage & Packing Charges (Extra required for Overseas Orders)

Special Offer! Three Bargain Bundles £25
Most orders returned within a week

STEVE EARL FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES (SW)
BROADSTREET, BUNGAY, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND NR10 1AH

BULK CLEARANCE £75 per 5,000
Phone 0986 2621 or 4108 for details

★ 1988/89 PROGRAMMES ★

Dur. 88/89 list has a good selection of English, Scottish, Irish, intern., non-League etc. Just send 25p or your own self stamped addressed envelope or I.R.C. if writing from overseas. You will not be disappointed. Wholesale rates on application

P. C. RICHES,
Dept S, 5 Station Parade,
Dorchester Road, Northolt Park,
Middlesex UB5 4PD
Tel. 01-423 6677 (24 hour service)

PROGRAMME MONTHLY

A must for every programme collector

At least 80 pages each month, packed with news, views, features, reviews & articles on programmes & collecting.

Up to 20 pages of adverts of Programmes For Sale, Wanted and For Exchange. For a FREE INTRODUCTORY COPY of a recent edition, send a 15p stamp to:

PROGRAMME MONTHLY, 14 RAITH CRESCENT,
KIRKCALDY, FIFE, KY2 5NN

SEND 35P for our comprehensive catalogue at Rundo Programmes, 4 Crawford Avenue, Gaufay, Newport on Tay, DD6 8SG, PACT Member.

FAN CLUBS

JOIN THE official Everton Fan Club. £10 to Everton Football Club, Goodison Park, Liverpool, L4 4EL.

GAMES

ELECTRONIC HAND HELD VIDEO SPORTS GAMES

The range includes:-
Football, Basketball, American Football, Ice Hockey, Tennis, Car Racing & Volley Ball
Only £4.99 each or 2 for £8.99
Ideal Christmas gifts!

Order now from:- BSL, 45 High St, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 4DX

JOKES

FREE

Britain's No. 1 Joke Catalogue, packed with over 500 practical jokes from 5p

Stink bombs, Whoopee cushion, wobbly lager glass, laxative tea bags, smoke bombs, willie sugar, cigarette bangers, joke blood, sick, turds, soap sweat, wat jokes, exploding jokes, magic tricks, party fun kits, masks, make-up, sea monkeys, football scarves, hats, rosettes, badges programs, plus lots of pop novelties, the complete Joke Shop by Post.

Send 14p stamp with your name and address for bumper catalogue and Free Gift to:

**MATCHRITE, THE FUNNY BUSINESS
(DEPT SO), 167 WINCHESTER ROAD,
BRISTOL BS4 3NJ**

BOOKS & VIDEOS

* LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB OFFICIAL YEARBOOK *

£2.50 plus 50p (package & postage). Free gift with each book - we will send a large full colour poster showing one of our great teams of the eighties.

Please make cheques/postal order to
LFC Leisure Ltd.,
Anfield Road, Liverpool L4 0TH

Orders from abroad including Eire can only be accepted if paid in sterling. To cover extra postage costs it will be £4.10 if from Europe; £5.00 if outside Europe.

SEND FOR DETAILS of Britain's biggest range of new soccer books and videos (UK S.A.E.). The Soccer Bookshelf (SH), 72 Saint Peters Avenue, Cleethorpes, DH35 8HU, England

FOR SALE

FOOTBALL CLUB embroidered sew on badges and patches. 55p each including p&p. Ian Gibson, 91 Roodegate, Basildon, Essex SS14 2AY.

FLAGS INTERNATIONAL. Send S.A.E. for price list to, 15 Pebble Mill Street, Etruria, Stoke-on-Trent

IT'S SOCCER and it's Cricket, 2 board games, £5 each (P.P. free), from 4 Games, 9 Uxilia Terrace, Bridgend, CF31 3BB.

SUPPORTERS PACKS - contains silk scarf, rosette and lapel badge in a special display pack, £1.95 + 50p p&p - Ian Gibson, 91 Roodegate, Basildon, Essex SS14 2AY.

QUIZ

SPORTS QUIZ LEAGUE. Join the Postal Sports Quiz League and try and win the league title. Trophies will be awarded to the winners. Send for details to D. Gooding, 25 Coxway, Clevedon, Avon, BS21 5AQ.

GAMES

COULD YOU BE THE NEXT BRIAN CLOUGH OR KENNY DALGLISH?

Yes! It's true! Now you can be the manager of your OWN football club. Our super new Play-By-Mail Soccer League is so realistic that you will be able to control team selection and tactics for each match of the season, as well as your club's financial affairs.

- ★ Can YOU improve results? ★ Can YOU improve attendances?
- ★ Can YOU decide on the best players to buy from the transfer market?
- ★ Can YOU produce another DIEGO MARADONA, RUUD GULLIT, GEORGE BEST or MARCO VAN BASTEN?
- ★ Can YOU lead your club to glory and win a trophy in your first season?

Test your football expertise against other managers. All the excitement and realism of football is built into our unique tactical world class game - goal attempts, thrilling saves, corners, free-kicks, penalties, bookings, sendings-off, injuries, subs, transfer markets, bank loans, sponsorship, promotion, relegation, - in fact, EVERYTHING a football fan could ever wish for is incorporated into the APEX SOCCER LEAGUE!

• UNIQUE Match Statistics • Individual Match HIGHLIGHTS

PLUS

- 1) Cup Matches 2) International Competitions
- 3) Inter-League Matches 4) End of Season Nerve-racking Play-Offs
- 5) Real Trophies/Medals For Successful Managers

Our unique soccer management computer program has been exclusively designed for our powerful 640K RAM computer, making it easily the most realistic P.B.M game ever!

Our second league season is about to start NOW, so don't delay, send just £2.50 to register for rules and full instructions. Matches are only £1.25 per game thereafter, which covers your cost for all match reports, statistical information, league news sheets, postage, etc. PLUS - all friendly matches are totally FREE OF CHARGE! Absolutely NO HIDDEN CHARGES - true value-for-money!

AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT - COMPLETE THE COUPON AND BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!

Please enrol me as a member of your Play-By-Mail Soccer League.
I enclose cheque/p.o. for £2.50 (overseas £3.50 - Sterling only), payable to APEX SERVICES for rules and full instructions

Name (BLOCK CAPITALS) _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Cut out or write your details on a separate sheet if you do not wish to spoil your magazine and send to: APEX SERVICES, DEPT. S1, 127 BEAUMONT DRIVE, NORTHFLEET, KENT, DA11 9NR.

FOOTBALL CALENDARS

Chart Mail Ltd, PO Box 658, Acton, London W3 9HS UK

We bring you the best in Official Football Calendars plus two Culture Shock Calendars which have a (C) after them. Each calendar is 11½" x 17½" in full colour. They cost £3.99 plus 51p p&p each. Send your cheques (put your address on the back) P.O.s, Cash in notes (no coins) payable to Chart Mail Ltd. and send to 1989 Football Calendars PO Box 658, Acton, London W3 9HS, UK. Demand is always high so order early, delivery normally 7-28 days after release date of November 15th. When you receive your calendar the cover will be different to the one in this ad so it has an up-to-date team line up.

The range includes: Arsenal, Celtic, Chelsea, Everton, Glasgow R., Liverpool, Man. U., Soccer Stars (Linnik, Maradona, etc.), American Football (C), NFL, West Ham. We also sell Sam Fox Topless (C), Dream Girls (C) (Linda Lusardi, M. Whitaker etc.)

• Please send me the following calendars

• (Mr/Miss/Mrs) First Surname

• Street

• Town

• County

SHOOT/89/4

WHY I HAD TO LEAVE UNITED



The partnership between Mark Hughes and Brian McClair left few opportunities for Davenport to shine at United.

PETER Davenport believes he has more chance of resurrecting his England career with Middlesbrough than First Division big boys Manchester United. And that's not sour grapes either.

Davenport had made just one appearance for England (as substitute against the Republic of Ireland in 1985) before joining United, but he was convinced that his £570,000 transfer would launch him to international stardom.

But after 84 appearances – and just 20 League goals – he conceded defeat in his battle with the Old Trafford stars ... and manager Alex Ferguson.

Command

Unable to command a regular place in Fergie's side Davenport's future appeared even more uncertain following the return to Old Trafford of former favourite Mark Hughes in the summer.

Although he vowed to stay and fight for a first team place he confessed in SHOOT! at the time: "Obviously I'm not going to be happy if I'm not getting a look in. Sitting on the bench would be no good to me at this stage of my career."

Davenport had his doubts about breaking up the new striking partnership of Hughes and McClair and his worst fears were

by Peter Davenport

'MY ENGLAND CAREER HAS STOOD STILL FOR THREE YEARS'

realised just 68 minutes into the new season.

"I was substituted in the first game against QPR and when I was dropped for the following match against Liverpool I knew my time was up," he recalls. "I'd had enough of that last season."

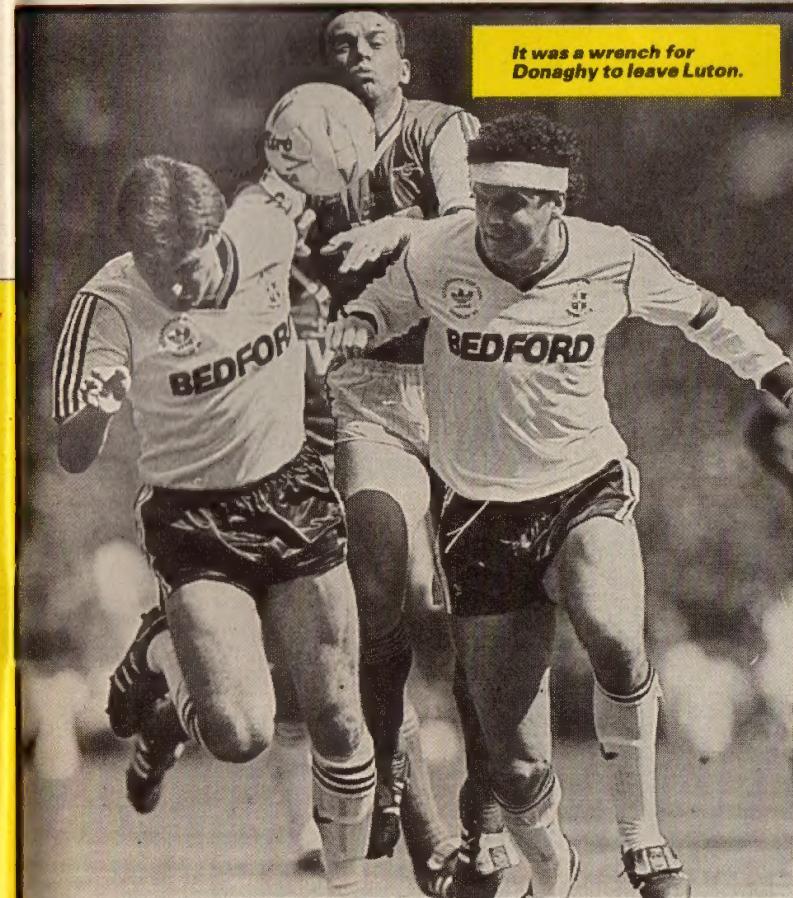
"I said in the summer that I didn't want to spend half my time on the bench but as the season wore on that was becoming the case," he says.

"I had been prepared to give it one last go but in the end I had no alternative but to leave. The time

was right to move on. But there's no ill-feeling and I've no regrets.

"Of course I'm bitterly disappointed things didn't work out better for me but I'm proud to have been associated with a big club like United. I'm even happier to have joined a progressive one in Middlesbrough."

"My England career has stood still for three years but if I can do well in a successful side – and I see no reason why not – then Bobby Robson might be forced to have another look at me. I certainly hope so."



Mal 'flabbergasted'

MAL DONAGHY wasn't surprised when Manchester United made Luton an £800,000 offer they couldn't refuse – he was flabbergasted.

"I couldn't believe they were prepared to spend that much on a player of my age," reveals the 31-year-old defender.

But the Northern Irish international, who had spent ten years with Luton, is confident he can justify the massive price tag. In fact he thinks he can become an even better player.

"Even at my age I believe that I can benefit from playing in a side which boasts such quality players as Bryan Robson, Mark Hughes and Brian McClair," he says.

"And the fact that the club has seen fit to pay so much money for me has given me a boost."

"I'm not saying I was stale at

Luton but my place in the first team was guaranteed. That's not the case at United where I'm going to face a constant battle to stay in the side."

The first Donaghy knew of Alex Ferguson's interest was after Northern Ireland's match in Hungary last month when he heard that Luton had agreed a deal with the Manchester club.

Travelled

"I travelled back from Budapest on the Thursday and spoke to United chairman Martin Edwards on the Friday. Alex was away in Glasgow so I couldn't speak to him until after the game against Wimbledon."

"After that I asked for 48 hours to think the move over before signing. I wanted to discuss the matter with my wife."

"The fact I was joining a club

which is in with a real chance of winning the League helped make up my mind."

Being a United fan since he was a kid ("All the family support United too") also convinced him he was making the right move. "I suppose it was the realisation of a boyhood dream," he says.

"The club has always been close to me ever since I made the trips over by boat from Ireland as a teenager to watch them play. It's just strange that it has all happened so late in my career."

So late that Donaghy was about to embark on a testimonial year as reward for ten years loyal service to Luton.

"I will still get a testimonial match next year."

"Winning the Littlewoods Cup gave me a taste for success. Now, even though I'm 31, I believe I can start adding to my collection."

"I've got more chance of attracting his attention again playing regularly for Boro than playing a game here and a game there for United."

Rumours of a rift between Davenport and Ferguson were rife on the eve of the former Forest player's transfer to Ayresome Park when he watched Boro take on Millwall on October 29 and didn't report for United's televised clash with Everton on the Sunday.

Fergie, with only 13 fit players to pick from, was said to be outraged by Davenport's absence but the player insists: "It was all a big misunderstanding. I didn't know I was needed."

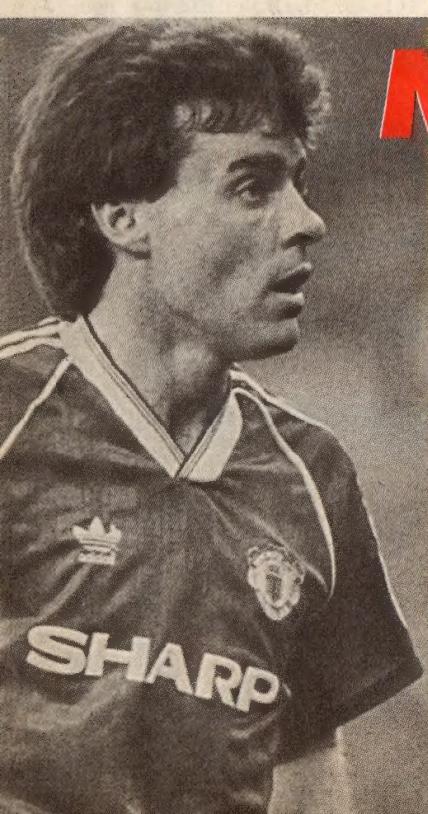
"But there was no question of a row with Mr Ferguson and my view is that I left United on good terms. I wish the manager and the players all the best."

Leaving a club of United's stature wasn't the only big soul-searching decision Davenport had to make. He also had to decide where to relaunch his career.

In addition to Boro he also had talks with Aston Villa, and there was speculation that Forest boss Brian Clough was ready to take him back to the City Ground.

He insists he knew nothing of the Forest interest and says: "It was a straightforward choice between Boro and Villa and, as much as I was impressed with Graham Taylor and the set up at Villa, I had a gut feeling that the North East was the place for me."

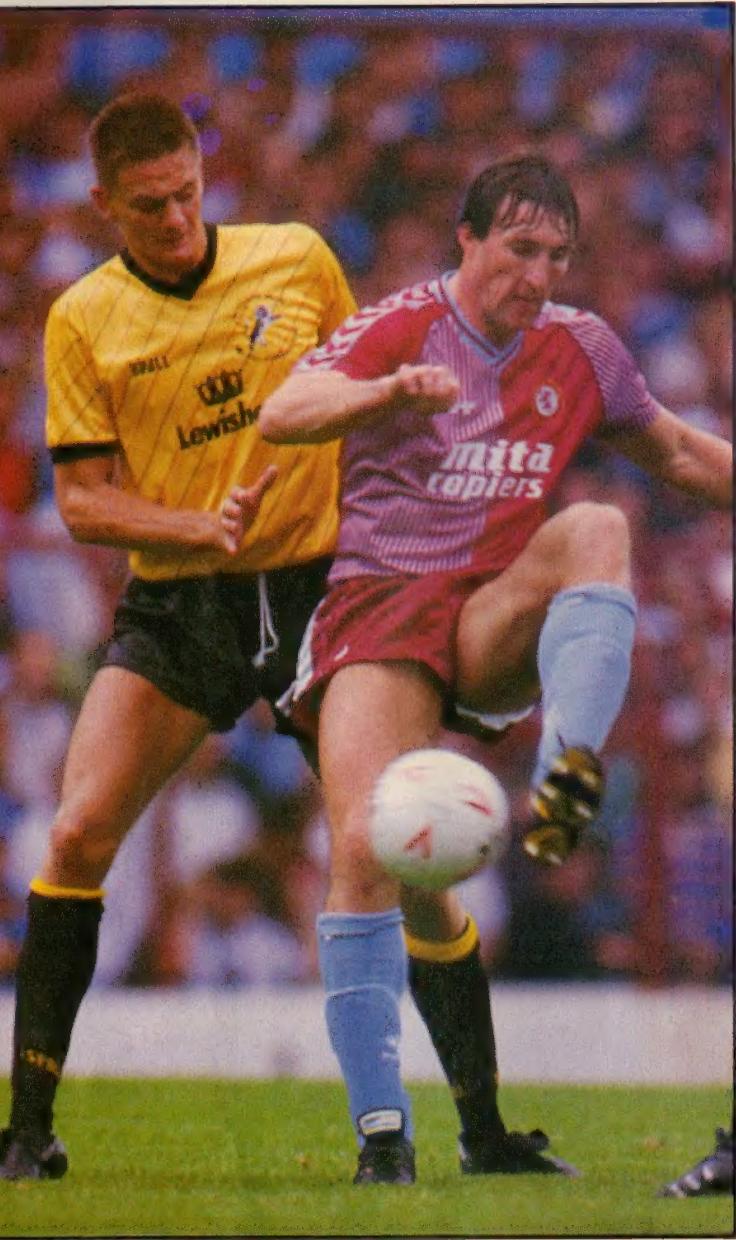
"The club's style of play is similar to that of Forest – no doubt because of the influence of Bruce Rioch and Colin Todd who both played under Cloughie – and I am certain Boro are going places."



Scottish date

SCOTLAND will host the 1989 World Youth Cup Finals, with 16 nations competing. Brazil, Argentina and Colombia have already qualified. The Final will be held next June at Rangers' Ibrox Stadium.

IRWIN & LARGE



RAMBO ALERT

The First Division grapevine is buzzing with rumours that Aston Villa are ready to part with leading scorer ALAN McINALLY.

In spite of a number of spectacular goals this season, McInally's performances have not satisfied manager GRAHAM TAYLOR, who signed the big striker from Celtic for £225,000 last year.

And that news is sure to interest Manchester City manager MEL MACHIN, who is in the market for just such a robust goalscorer to replace £1.7 million PAUL STEWART.

The stumbling block to any move, however, could be McInally's popularity with the Villa fans, who have taken the 25-year-old Scotsman to their hearts.

NORMAN HUNTER may quit the game after being sacked as Leeds coach by new manager HOWARD WILKINSON. "I didn't agree with the sacking of BILLY BREMNER, but once it was done it had to be a clean break and it was no surprise when Howard brought his own coaching staff."

Notts County's prolific goalscorer IAN MCPARLAND has asked for a transfer. But his hopes of a return to his home city of Edinburgh have been dashed. Both Hearts and Hibs have watched the 27-year-old striker this season, but neither will be following up their interest.

Always first with the latest news

United ready for Webb

Manchester United are ready to make a £2 million bid for Nottingham Forest's England midfield man NEIL WEBB.

Old Trafford boss ALEX FERGUSON has wanted to pair Webb with BRYAN ROBSON for a long time and is now preparing to make Forest the offer they cannot refuse. Webb, 25, will become a free agent in the summer when his contract expires and Forest will not want to risk losing him on the cheap.

United have already started to raise some of the money by selling LIAM O'BRIEN to Newcastle and are expected to complete the £430,000 sale of JESPER OLSEN to CLIVE ALLEN's Bordeaux this week.

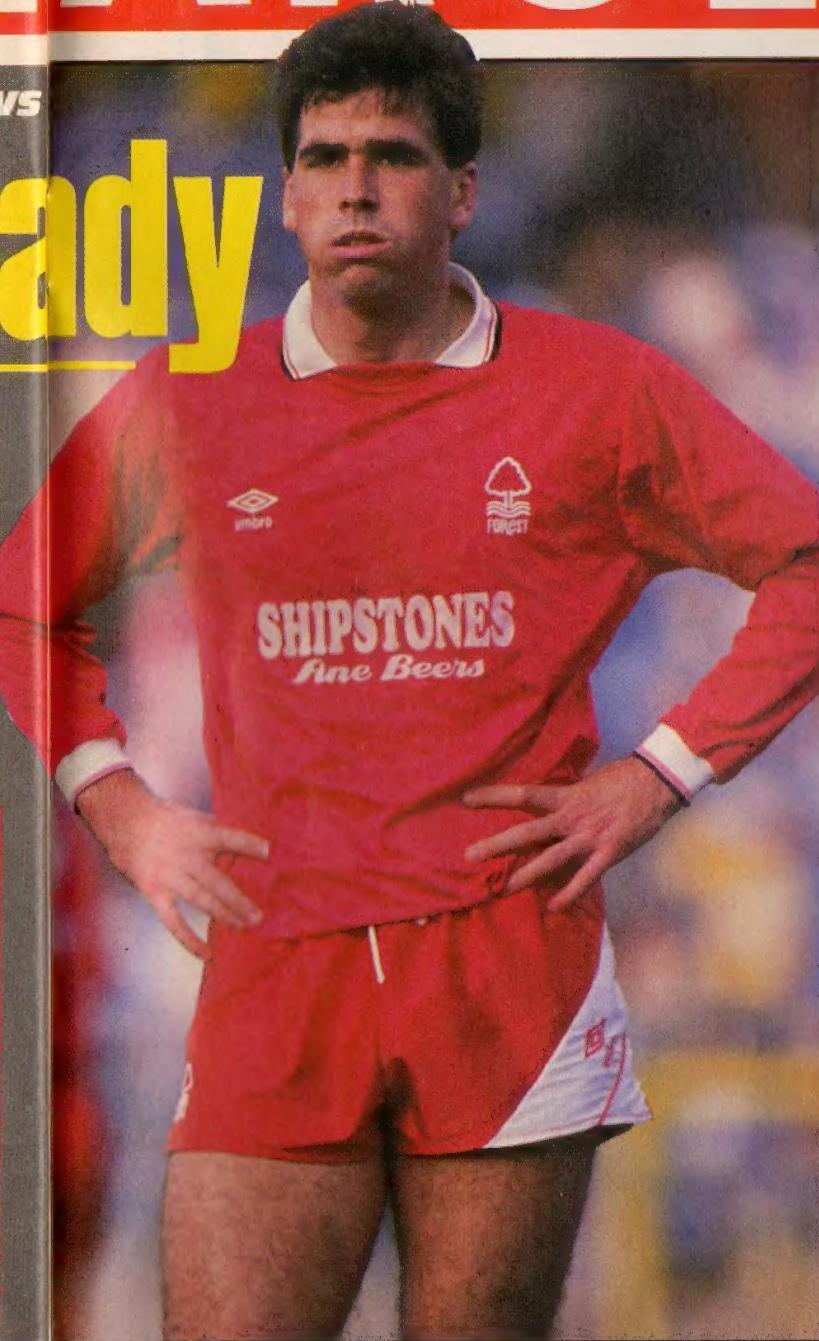
Forest boss BRIAN CLOUGH has repeatedly stressed that Webb is not for sale and even now is trying to put together a financial deal to keep his man at the City Ground. But he knows he cannot match United's resources.

Vinny cleared

VINNY JONES will not be charged by the FA for the tackle which has put Tottenham's GARY STEVENS back in hospital with torn knee ligaments.

Spurs fans were fuming over the incident which marred Saturday's 3-2 win over Wimbledon, but FA chief TED CROKER confirms: "Jones' tackle was clearly seen by the referee, who did not award a free-kick. For us to take action would be to undermine that decision."

But Spurs boss TERRY VENABLES snaps: "It was a ridiculous tackle."



Dundee United and Motherwell are both keeping an eye on South African goalkeeper WADE DU PLESSIS, who has also had secret trials at Hibs. Easter Road boss ALEX MILLER decided he has enough cover for ANDY GORAM but their Premier Division rivals could now step in.

Hammers want Atkinson

DALIAN ATKINSON, JOHN DUNCAN has agreed to put the 20-year-old goalscorer on the transfer list and Hammers boss JOHN LYALL has the necessary cash left over from the £2.2 million sale of TONY COTTEE.

Pates blow for Charlton

CHARLTON are back in the market for a central defender after losing record signing COLIN PATES until the New Year following a hernia operation.

And I'm told Spurs were laughed out of Anfield when they made an ambitious enquiry about goalkeeper BRUCE GROBBELAAR last week.

Now they are likely to go for Gothenburg's Norwegian international ERIK THORSTVEDT, up for grabs at £500,000.

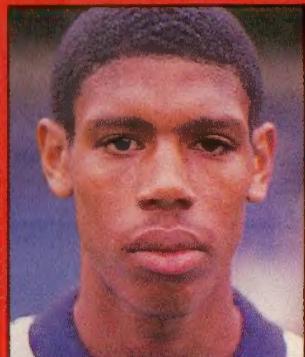
£2 million Speedie

Coventry boss JOHN SILLETT believes he got one of the transfer bargains of the decade when he paid Chelsea a club record £750,000 for DAVID SPEEDIE last year.

"I wouldn't sell David now even if I was offered £2 million," says Sillett. "I had a few reservations about asking him to play in midfield, but he has such marvellous qualities that he is playing as though he has always been a midfielder."

• The career of Birmingham's IAN HANDYSIDES seems almost certainly to be over following an emergency brain operation after he collapsed at home and was rushed to the local hospital for immediate surgery. The 25-year-old midfield man had not played for Blues all season and had been undergoing a series of tests after complaining of feeling unwell.

Hands off Palmer



New West Brom boss BRIAN TALBOT has killed Tottenham's interest in centre-half CARLTON PALMER, rated at £800,000.

Talbot, who has been playing Palmer in midfield since taking over from RON ATKINSON, insists: "I have not made contact with anyone regarding a transfer for Carlton."

"He is a player I would like to hold onto because I see him as a key figure in our promotion bid. All this baseless speculation is unsettling."

Meanwhile, Albion are seeking £150,000 in compensation from Atletico Madrid for Atkinson and his assistant COLIN ADDISON.



SHOOT/adidas Golden Shoe

The leading contenders

FIRST DIVISION	
Alan Smith (Arsenal)	12
Tony Cascarino (Millwall)	9
Paul Williams (Charlton)	8
Alan McInally (Aston Villa)	7
Tony Cottee (Everton)	7

SECOND DIVISION	
Tommy Tynan (Plymouth)	13
Simon Garner (Blackburn)	10
Frank Bunn (Oldham)	10

THIRD DIVISION	
Steve Bull (Wolves)	11
Tony Agana (Sheff. Utd.)	10
Brian Deane (Sheff. Utd.)	9
Andy Sayer (Fulham)	9

FOURTH DIVISION	
Terry McPhillips (Halifax)	15
Phil Stant (Hereford)	11
Steve Norris (Scarborough)	8
Brendan O'Connell (Burnley)	8

SCOTTISH PREMIER	
Frank McAvennie (Celtic)	9
Mark McGhee (Celtic)	8
Mixu Paatela (Dundee Utd)	7

COSTLY SAINT

ST. MIRREN reserve PAUL LAMBERT is far from happy after having a £750,000 price tag slapped on him by manager TONY FITZPATRICK.

The unsettled midfield man recently asked for a transfer after losing his place in the side to BRIAN MARTIN and BILLY DAVIES, but Fitzpatrick laughs: "That price should put everyone off. Paul is a cracking player and I don't want him to go."

NEALE'S HELL IS OVER

No one has to remind Rangers new boy Neale Cooper that football is a game of ups and downs.

In the space of less than three weeks his yo-yo career was completely transformed as he left the obscurity of reserve football in England to become a Hampden hero once again.

Cooper had tasted Cup glory at the national stadium as an Aberdeen player on several occasions – but The Dons were second best as he celebrated an early success with the Ibrox giants who gave him a fresh start in Scotland.

Clutching the Skol Cup medal he is convinced is only the first of many honours he will win as a Rangers player, he admits: "It's hard to accept what has happened to me in such a short time."

The one-time Pittodrie ball boy spent seven happy and successful years with his local club before opting for a move into the English First Division.

Nightmare

But his stint at Aston Villa proved to be a nightmare as he struggled against injury and was plagued with more than his fair share of problems off the field.

The tough-tackling midfield player or central defender was constantly out of action as Villa plunged into the Second Division as first Graham Turner, who lured him South of the border, and then Billy McNeill faced the axe.

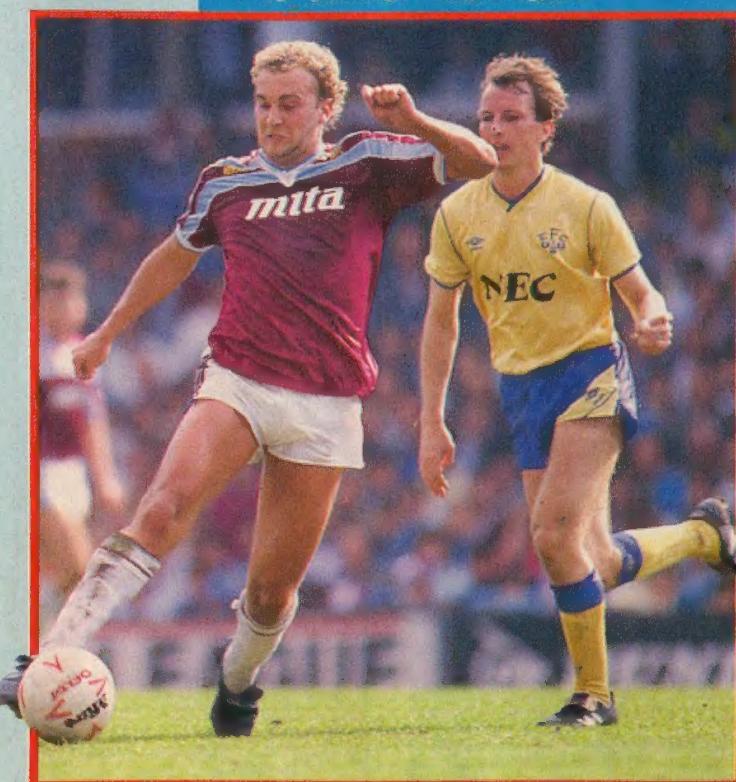
Graham Taylor took over the reins and succeeded in restoring the Midlands giants to the big time – but Cooper quickly realised his days were numbered.

"I wasn't in Villa's plans and it made sense to get away," he confesses. "At the same time, I'd have been a fool to turn down Rangers."

"I spent all these years in Scotland playing against Rangers for Aberdeen and it never really sunk in how big a club they were. But now I know."

"I can't describe what an honour it was to be asked to join up at Ibrox. Everything happened very quickly but once I'd met Graeme Souness and had a look round I was sold on the place."

"The funny things is, I was



never the number one pin-up with the Rangers fans when I was playing against them. It concerned me that there might still be the odd grudge or two.

"But I needn't have worried. Right from the word go the fans have been marvellous."

Cooper, 25 this month, doesn't regret his time at Villa. "I had great times at Aberdeen when everything was rosy and looking back it was probably good for me

to sample life on the other side of the fence," he explains.

"Obviously, I wish I had been given the opportunity to prove myself there. It's a marvellous club and Villa Park is a tremendous stage."

A serious groin tear restricted him to just 13 League outings in his debut season with Villa. Then last term he managed only seven more as he was sidelined following an operation to repair a

damaged cartilage and trapped ligament in his foot.

"I was at my very lowest point earlier this year when I was out of action," he recalls. "For a time no one could tell me what was wrong and by the time I'd had an operation and recovered six months had elapsed.

"I used to ask myself if it was all worthwhile. I became so depressed that I even considered quitting the game. But I've always been a fighter by nature and decided to battle on."

Demanding

The gritty Scot managed eight reserve appearances at the end of last season – an unexpected bonus – and after coming through Villa's demanding pre-season programme unscathed had high hopes of at last enjoying an extended run in the side.

"But when I wasn't in the side for the first few games it sank in that I didn't figure in Graham Taylor's plans," he points out. "A transfer seemed the only solution."

Cooper's debut for Rangers, coincidentally at his former

Pittodrie base, was his first competitive game in more than a year he came through well.

With his injury nightmare now a distant memory, Cooper is also hoping for some better luck away from the game.

During his spell in England he was dogged by misfortune. His car was broken into an amazing seven times – each time he lost a stereo system and on one occasion all his clothes.

He explains: "I'd come up to Scotland to pick up all my gear and left it in the car overnight because I was so tired when I got back. The next morning, when I went to bring it in the whole lot had gone."

'Bad'

"They even took my car from outside my front door on one occasion and things got so bad that when I went in for training the Villa lads would ask 'What's happened today?'

"I'd only been in my new house for a month when it was flooded, causing thousands of pounds of damage."

"It was one thing after another and when you add my injury problems I sometimes wonder if I was jinxed. Thank goodness my luck seems to have changed."



Neale starred for Rangers in their 3-2 Skol Cup Final win over his old mates at Aberdeen.

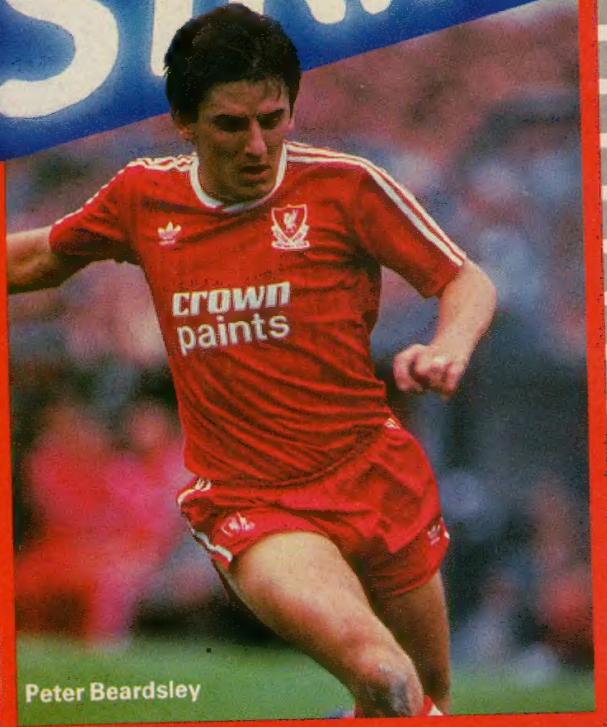


Gary Lineker



Bryan Robson

THE SONDICO® STRIKE FORCE

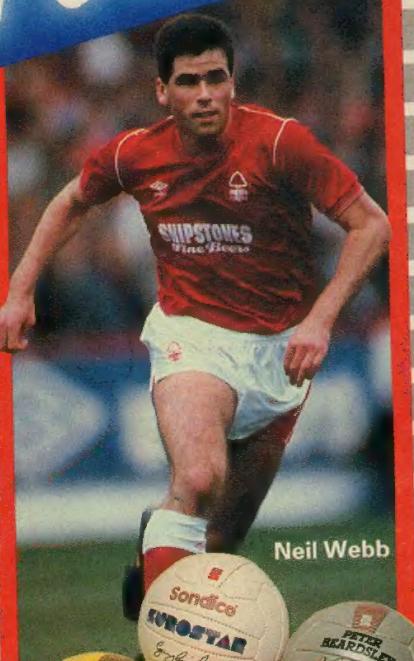


Peter Beardsley

Robson, Lineker, Beardsley and Webb - The Soccer Stars who make up the Sondico® Strike Force.

They've put their names on the best quality and value Soccer Balls and Shinguards you can buy!

So Strike now... see the Sondico® range at all good sports retailers today and join the Sondico® Strike Force!



Neil Webb



Sondico®

Sondico International Limited Eldon Way, Biggleswade, Beds. SG18 8NJ